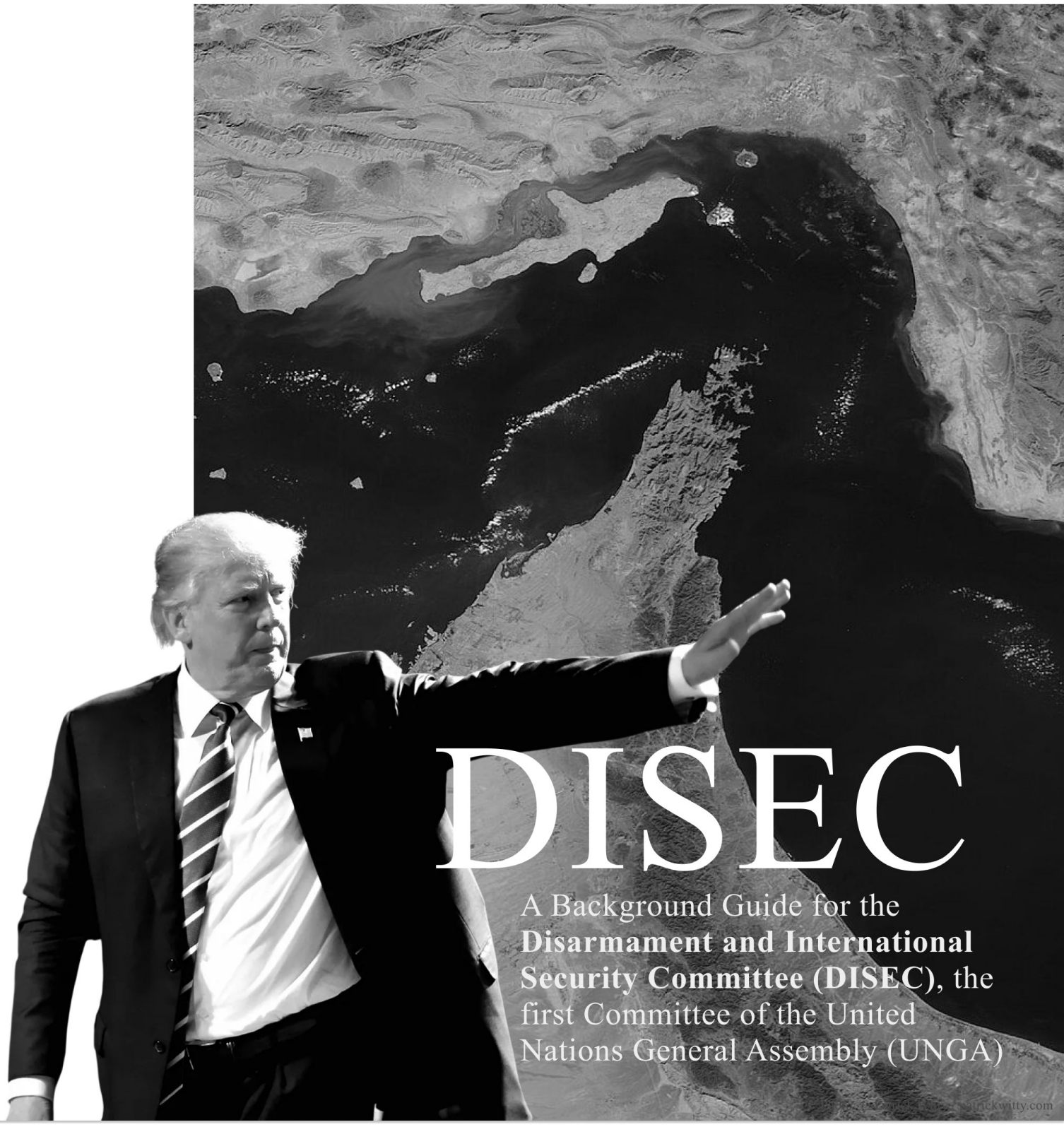
AKAMUN OFFICIAL BACKGROUND GUIDE

DISEC is asked to consider how the international community can protect freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, prevent military escalation, and share responsibility for maintaining regional security and stability.



DISEC

A Background Guide for the **Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC)**, the first Committee of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

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Akademiet Model United Nations 2026

A Letter from the Secretary-General

Dear Delegates and Faculty Advisors,

It is my absolute honour to invite you to the first iteration of Akademiet Model United Nations (AMUN) set to take place in Sandvika 10–11 October 2026.

My name is Shubhi Maheshwari, and I am a second-year high school student at Akademiet Realfagsgymnas Sandvika. I was first introduced to Model United Nations during my first year of the IBDP, and ever since then, I have developed a strong passion for MUN and the personal growth it provides.

There are very few MUN communities in Norway, and most of them are based in IB schools. After my amazing experience with MUN, I hoped that more students would have the chance to experience the same exposure, personal growth, and international perspective that MUN offers.

When starting at Akademiet, I took initiative to establish an MUN club only a week after joining the school. At the time, Model United Nations was a completely unfamiliar concept to most students. Many were unsure about debating in a language that they seldom used in their everyday life, and hesitant to participate. Nevertheless, we worked together to build a welcoming and supportive environment.

Since then, we have established a wonderful and dedicated group. In just one year, we have attended conferences in Stavanger, Oslo, Dubai, and the Netherlands. These experiences have strengthened our passion for MUN and expanded our understanding of international diplomacy and debate.

Now, we hope to host our own conference and create a space where everyone can participate and grow. Being a club which has gone from not knowing anything about the concept to participating in conferences worldwide, we know the essentials for a good MUN experience. Drawing on our experiences from some of the largest and most prestigious conferences, we aim to design an event that offers a unique and memorable experience. Through this conference, we hope to share our enthusiasm for MUN and inspire more students to become part of this incredible community.

Very excited to see everyone soon!
Shubhi Maheshwari
Secretary-General

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Section I: Introduction

About DISEC

The Disarmament and International Security Committee (**DISEC**), also known as the First Committee, is a main committee of the United Nations General Assembly.[1] It focuses on issues related to international peace and security, especially disarmament, arms control, non-proliferation, and other threats to international security.[2] **DISEC** also addresses challenges such as arms trafficking, nuclear proliferation, and emerging military technologies.

This committee is relevant to the topic because tensions in the **Strait of Hormuz** involve naval forces, military escalation, threats to commercial shipping, and disputes between regional and external powers.

DISEC provides a forum for countries to discuss cooperative security measures, **confidence-building measures**, communication between military forces, and other ways to reduce the risk of conflict and military escalation.

Section II: Topic Overview

The Strait of Hormuz is a narrow maritime passage connecting the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman, and it is one of the most strategically important waterways in the world.

As a **maritime chokepoint**, oil flows through the Strait of Hormuz account for roughly one-fifth of global petroleum liquids consumption,[3] while the strait is also an important route for liquefied natural gas, making it essential for international trade and global energy security.

Recent incidents, such as tanker seizures, attacks on commercial vessels, and rising tensions between regional and international naval forces, have raised concerns about **freedom of navigation** in the area.

The core problem is how the international community can protect this critical trade route while preventing military escalation and balancing coastal states' security interests with the global need for stable, open maritime access.

Section III: Context

Tensions surrounding the Strait of Hormuz began long before modern politics, but many of the modern security challenges developed during the twentieth century as the Persian Gulf became increasingly important to global oil exports.

The strait's strategic importance made it a recurring flashpoint, especially during the **Tanker War**, a phase of the Iran-Iraq War that intensified in 1987[4], when Iran and Iraq attacked commercial shipping and oil-related vessels across the Persian Gulf.[5]

The Tanker War greatly increased international naval involvement in the region. In July 1987 the United States began Operation Earnest Will, under which reflagged Kuwaiti tankers were escorted by U.S. naval forces in an effort to protect commercial shipping.

Tensions between Iran and the United States increased further in April 1988, when the USS Samuel B. Roberts struck a mine and the United States responded with Operation Praying Mantis against Iranian targets.

Since then, several key events have shaped the issue: confrontations between Iranian and U.S. naval forces, warnings by Iranian officials that shipping through the strait could be disrupted during disputes over sanctions and Iranian oil exports, and several major maritime incidents in 2019 that heightened global concern.

On 12 May 2019, four commercial vessels were damaged near Fujairah in the United Arab Emirates, just outside the Strait of Hormuz.[6] On 13 June 2019, two tankers were attacked in the Gulf of Oman. On 19 July 2019, Iranian forces seized the British-flagged tanker *Stena Impero* in the Strait of Hormuz.[7]

These incidents demonstrated how

quickly regional tensions can escalate and threaten commercial navigation, increase military tensions, and affect global energy security.

The main actors involved include Iran and Oman as coastal states, **Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)** members such as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, and external powers like the United States, the United Kingdom, and European states. International organizations also play roles: the **International Maritime Organization (IMO)** develops international standards concerning the safety and security of international shipping,[8] while coalitions such as EMASOH and the International Maritime Security Construct (IMSC) monitor threats and support safe navigation.

The United Nations has addressed the issue primarily through international law. The **UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)** defines rules for **innocent passage** and **transit passage** through straits used for international navigation.

Under UNCLOS, transit passage allows ships and aircraft to move continuously and expeditiously through straits used for international navigation. States bordering these straits must not hamper or suspend transit passage.

However, Iran has signed UNCLOS but has not ratified it, which adds complexity to disagreements over how maritime law applies in the Strait of Hormuz.

The Security Council has addressed threats to commercial navigation in the region through several resolutions. During the Iran-Iraq War, Security Council Resolution 552 (1984) addressed attacks on commercial vessels and reaffirmed navigation involving Gulf ports not participating in the hostilities.[9] More recently, Security Council Resolution 2817 (2026) addressed attacks and threats affecting merchant and commercial vessels in and near the Strait of Hormuz.[10]

More broadly, UN involvement has included promoting dialogue, supporting international maritime law, encouraging de-escalation, and addressing threats to commercial navigation.

Despite these efforts, several challenges remain unresolved. There remains no universally accepted international mechanism specifically dedicated to investigating every maritime attack in the Strait of Hormuz, and mistrust between key actors limits cooperation.

Disagreements over sovereignty, sanctions, and foreign military presence continue to fuel tension. The presence of multiple naval forces increases the risk of accidental escalation, while irregular or non-state maritime actors make **attribution** difficult.

As one of the world's most critical energy chokepoints, the strait remains vulnerable, making this issue highly relevant to DISEC's mandate of maintaining international peace and security.

Section IV: Possible Actions and Discussion

Countries disagree on how to secure the **Strait of Hormuz**. Some support strong international naval patrols to protect shipping and deter attacks, while others argue that foreign military forces increase tension and prefer regional security arrangements led by coastal states.

Proposed approaches include creating a UN-supported investigation mechanism for tanker incidents, establishing communication hotlines between rival navies, improving information-sharing, and strengthening compliance with existing international law governing transit passage.

The main challenges are mistrust between key actors, disagreements over sovereignty and sanctions, and the difficulty of attributing responsibility for attacks involving irregular or non-state maritime forces.

These disagreements shape the debate and limit progress toward a unified

security framework.

Section V: Key Terms

Strait of Hormuz: A narrow waterway connecting the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman. It is one of the world's most important routes for transporting oil and natural gas.

Maritime chokepoint: A narrow passage where large amounts of global trade must pass, making it strategically important and vulnerable to disruption.

Freedom of navigation: The principle that ships enjoy certain rights of navigation under international law.

Innocent passage: The right of ships to pass through another state's territorial waters as long as the passage is continuous and does not threaten the peace, security, or order of the coastal state.

Transit passage: A special UNCLOS provision that allows ships and aircraft to move continuously and quickly through straits used for international navigation.

Attribution: The process of determining which state, organization, or group is responsible for an attack or other incident.

Tanker War: A phase of the Iran-Iraq War, particularly from 1984 onward, during which Iran and Iraq attacked commercial shipping and oil-related targets in the Persian Gulf.

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS): An international treaty that establishes rules concerning the use of the oceans, maritime boundaries, navigation rights, and the responsibilities of states at sea.

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC): A regional organization of Gulf states (including Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, and Oman) involved in security issues around the strait.

International Maritime Organization (IMO): A specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for developing international rules and standards for the safety and security of shipping and the prevention of marine pollution.

Section VI: Key Questions

- How can the international community ensure freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz without escalating military tensions?
- What role should regional actors (such as Iran, Oman, and GCC states) play compared to international coalitions?
- Is there a need for a UN-supported mechanism to investigate attacks on commercial vessels, and how could it remain neutral?
- How can communication and coordination between rival naval forces be improved to prevent accidental clashes?
- How can states improve compliance with and implementation of international law governing transit passage through heavily militarized straits?
- How can states address the challenge of attributing responsibility for attacks involving irregular or non-state maritime forces?
- What balance should be struck between coastal-state security concerns and the global need for uninterrupted energy trade?
- What role should the United Nations, IMO, and regional organizations play in protecting commercial shipping?
- How can security measures protect commercial vessels without contributing to further militarization of the Strait of Hormuz?

Section VII: Rules of Procedure

The Rules at AKAMUN

This section provides a brief overview of the rules and procedures used at AKAMUN. It does not cover every rule or situation that may arise during the conference, but the Chairs will explain additional procedures when necessary. The Chairs are there to help you understand how the rules work and will guide you throughout the conference. You do not need to memorize every rule or understand everything before the conference begins. Think of MUN as a board game: you learn the rules as you play. We understand that the rules may seem overwhelming at first, but they become much easier once you get the hang of them.

Roll Call
At the beginning of each session, the Chair will conduct a roll call. Delegates should answer either “present” or “present and voting.” Delegates who answer “present and voting” waive their right to abstain during substantive voting. See Voting Procedure below.

Formal Debate and the Speakers’ List
Formal debate begins when the Chair opens the Speakers’ List. The Speakers’ List is a list of delegates who wish to speak on the topic under discussion. Delegates should raise their placards when the Chair asks for speakers to be added to the list. Each speech will have a time limit, usually between 60 and 90 seconds. When a delegate’s speaking time expires, the floor will pass to the next speaker. When a delegate finishes their speech, they may yield the floor to the following:

• Another delegate, who may hold a speech

• Questions, allowing other delegates to ask Points of Information (questions), if permitted by the Chair.

• The Chair, in which case the delegate has concluded their speech and may take their seat.

Delegates are expected to remain in the committee room and in their seats during formal debate. Delegates must request the Chair’s permission before leaving their seat or the room. This may be done through a Point of Personal Privilege.

Points
Points allow delegates to address the Chair directly regarding procedural matters, personal needs, or questions concerning a speech. Points do not require a vote. A delegate may raise the following:

• Point of Order. Used when a delegate believes that the rules of procedure have not been followed correctly. A Point of Order may interrupt a speaker only when the matter is sufficiently serious to require immediate clarification. The Chair’s ruling on the matter is final.

• Point of Personal Privilege. Used when a delegate is experiencing a personal difficulty that affects their ability to participate in debate. This may include being unable to hear or see, excessive noise, room temperature, or another physical or practical concern. A Point of Personal Privilege may interrupt a speaker when necessary. It may also be used to request permission to leave the delegate’s seat or the committee room, including for bathroom visits.

• Point of Parliamentary Inquiry. Used to ask the Chair a question regarding parliamentary procedure. Delegates may use this point to ask what motion is currently on the floor, how much speaking time remains, what a particular motion means, or what procedure will follow. A Point of Parliamentary Inquiry may not interrupt a speaker.

• Point of Information. Used to ask a question regarding the content of a delegate's speech. A Point of Information may only be raised when the speaker has yielded their remaining time to questions and the Chair has recognized the delegate. Questions should be relevant to the speech and should be phrased as questions rather than statements or arguments. The speaker may choose whether to answer the question.

Motions
Motions are simply proposals for what the committee should do next. Motions change the way the committee is proceeding and therefore require a vote. When the Chair asks if there are any motions on the floor, delegates may raise their placards to propose a motion. The Chair must recognize the delegate before they may state their motion, after which the Chair will determine whether the motion is in order. Delegates may call out "seconded" to indicate that they support the motion and wish for it to be considered. In simple terms, a motion is a suggestion for what the committee should do next. For example, a motion may suggest discussing a specific topic, giving speeches on a particular issue, entering an unmoderated caucus (see Caucuses below), or taking a break.

Caucusing and Lobbying
An unmoderated caucus pauses formal debate. During this time, delegates may move around the room and speak directly with one another. Delegates are not required to follow the usual rules of formal debate. However, delegates are not allowed to leave the committee without permission. Delegates are expected to use an unmoderated caucus to negotiate with other delegates, form blocs, and develop ideas for possible solutions. This is also when most working papers (see Working Papers versus Resolution Papers below) are written. Unmoderated caucuses are also the main opportunity for lobbying. Lobbying means building support for your ideas. For example, delegates may look for "allies" or combine similar proposals with other delegates.

Draft resolutions and Resolutions
A draft resolution is a document where delegates write down and organize their proposed solutions to the topic being discussed. Draft resolutions are developed through debate and caucusing, usually by groups of delegates working together. They follow a specific format and are divided into preambulatory clauses, which explain the issue and provide context, and operative clauses, which outline the actions the committee proposes to take. Once a draft resolution has been submitted and approved by the Chair, it can be discussed in committee, amended, and eventually put to a vote.

A resolution paper is the final version of a draft resolution after all amendments have been considered and the committee has voted on it. If it receives the required majority of votes, it is adopted as a resolution of the committee.

Voting Procedure
When the committee has finished debating a draft resolution, a delegate may make a motion to enter voting procedure. If the Chair rules the motion in order, the committee will enter voting procedure. Once voting procedure begins, the room will be closed by an administrator, and delegates are not permitted to leave the committee room. Delegates may still raise a Point of Order if they believe that the rules of procedure are not being followed. See Points above. Most procedural votes require a simple majority. The adoption of a draft resolution generally requires a two-thirds majority. Delegates may vote in favour, against, or abstain. However, delegates who answered "present and voting" during roll call may not abstain.

Respect, courtesy and Formality
Delegates are expected to always conduct themselves with respect and courtesy. During

formal debates, delegates must refer to themselves and other delegates in third person. For example, instead of saying “I believe this is a good solution,” a delegate should say, “This delegate believes this is a good solution.” Additionally, instead of saying “I do not support this proposal,” a delegate may also say, “The delegation/delegate of [country] does not support this proposal,” replacing [country] with the country that you represent. Delegates should refer to other delegates as “the delegate,” “the delegate of [country],” or another appropriate reference to the country they represent. The pronoun “you” should also be avoided when addressing an individual delegate, although it may be used when addressing delegates collectively.

Personal comments, phone use during formal debate, and other disruptive behaviour may be addressed or penalized at the Chair’s discretion. Delegates are allowed to use laptops during committee sessions, but only for purposes directly related to the debate. This includes writing notes, preparing speeches, developing ideas, preparing questions and arguments, or conducting other work relevant to the committee’s proceedings. Delegates are allowed to use generative AI tools, such as ChatGPT or Claude, in accordance with the Chair’s instructions. This may include assistance with understanding unfamiliar words or concepts, clarifying information, translating phrases, or improving the wording of a delegate’s own ideas. Delegates may also ask the Chairs for assistance when needed. Generative AI should not be used to generate complete speeches, arguments, or other substantive content on behalf of a delegate. Delegates are expected to develop, defend, and present their own ideas during committee sessions and argue for them.

ENDNOTES

Further reading: the Strait of Hormuz

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[9] United Nations Security Council. (1984). Resolution 552 (1984): https://docs.un.org/en/S/RES/552(1984)

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