

**Country:** Netherlands

**Delegate's Name, School:** Engin Efe Şahin, TED Üsküdar Koleji

**Committee:** General Assembly 1st Committee: Disarmament and International Security (DISEC)

**Topic:** Addressing Threats to Merchant Shipping: The Rise of Weaponized Drones and Terrorism at Sea

### **Background on the Issue**

In asymmetric warfare, advancements in technology have allowed UAVs to be easily modified into bomb-laden weapons used by terrorist organizations and extremist groups. The Netherlands acknowledges the growing threat that UAVs pose to maritime security, including their use for smuggling, surveillance of shipping routes, attacks on commercial vessels, and attempts to bypass port-side defenses. The delegation is deeply concerned about recent global incidents in which weaponized UAVs have been employed against oil tankers, cargo ships, and naval assets, posing risks to international trade and civilian life.

### **Netherlands Relation on the Situation**

As a major maritime nation with vital economic interests in secure international sea lanes, including the Port of Rotterdam—one of the world's largest commercial ports—the Netherlands views these developments with alarm. Terrorist groups have already demonstrated the ability to use modified quadcopters and USVs to bomb certain areas or destroy commercial ships. In response, the Netherlands has taken steps to protect maritime transport by deploying Vessel Protection Detachments (VPDs), composed of heavily armed marines, since 2011. Additionally, the country has invested in counter-drone technology, including purchasing C-UAS devices from Israel's Elbit Systems in a trade worth \$55 million USD.

### **Suggested Solution**

Given these threats, the Netherlands believes that there should be significant investment in Counter-Unmanned Aerial Systems (C-UAS) to further advance their production and technological capability. The delegation emphasizes the need for international cooperation, technology-sharing, and harmonized regulatory standards to address cross-border UAV misuse at sea and to ensure safe and secure maritime trade routes for all nations.

### **Sources**

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[4] <https://www.defensie.nl/onderwerpen/missie-in-somalie/beveiligingsteams-op-schepen>