



## **TBMUN 2022 DISEC STUDY GUIDE**

**Committee:** DISEC (Disarmament and International Security Committee)

**Agenda Item:** Impact of Private Military Security Contractors On Global Security

**Student Officers:** Asya Tanyılmaz, Ceren Fem Güven

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## Letters From Chairs

Esteemed delegates of TBMUN 2022,

I would like to start by welcoming you all to the fifth annual session of TBMUN. My name is Asya Tanyılmaz and I am a 10th grade student at FMV Ayazağa Işık High School. I will be the president chair of the DISEC committee along with my beloved deputy chair Ceren. Although this conference will be held online, we hope to have joyful committee sessions with you all.

Our world is changing at an incredible speed and we all are a part of this change. In my opinion, joining a MUN conference is one of the best things one can do in these extraordinary days. Despite all the difficulties, I am so glad to see that young minds are gathering to discuss global issues and collaborate to find solutions to them. We kindly ask you to come prepared before the conference. You are expected to read this study guide carefully and do your own research regarding your delegation prior to the conference, follow the rules of procedure and be active during the debate sessions so that the debate can go as smoothly as it can.

It doesn't matter if this will be your first MUN experience or 10th, me and Ceren are always here to encourage and help you during the two days of the conference. We both are looking forward to meeting you all and have an amazing MUN experience. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me through my email:

[asya.tanyilmaz1462@fmvisik.k12.tr](mailto:asya.tanyilmaz1462@fmvisik.k12.tr)

Best regards,

Asya Tanyılmaz

The President Chair of DISEC Committee

Distinguished Delegates of TBMUN 2022,

My name is Ceren and I am a tenth grader at Istek Bilge Kağan Anatolian High School. For this conference I have the great honor to be the deputy chair of the DISEC committee, along with my president chair Asya.

First of all, I would like to give you a warm welcome for joining this very prestigious conference. In my way of thinking, we are all gathered in this place to be able to find some solutions to the most current problems all around the world and for talking about these topics you need to have the confidence and hope inside yourselves. And not only finding solutions for saving this world, you become a very social person who has the courage to go next to anybody and open up a conversation. Nonetheless, you learn real life skills and how adult life works.

To finish up, we kindly request you all to be active in the sessions that we will have and having enough information is the key to that, at this point our study guide will help you all majorly. Lastly if you have any further questions please do not hesitate to ask via my email address: [cerenfemguven@gmail.com](mailto:cerenfemguven@gmail.com)

Best regards,  
Ceren Fem Güven  
The Deputy Chair of DISEC Committee

## About DISEC

DISEC, Disarmament and International Security Committee, is also known as the First Committee, and is a part of the United Nations General Assembly. This committee deals with issues that are related to disarmament, global security as well as threats to peace, that affect the international community and seeks to find solutions to the challenges related to these topics. Despite the fact that its mandate is restricted to making recommendations, the Committee has proven to be one of the most influential bodies in the United Nations, since its resolutions deal with some of the most complicated issues in the international community. DISEC works in close cooperation with the United Nations Disarmament Commission and the Geneva-based Conference on Disarmament.<sup>1</sup>

## Definitions of Related Terms

### Mercenary

In this context, the dictionary definition of mercenary is “a soldier who fights for any country or group that pays them”. Mercenaries are not members of any other official military and they are otherwise outsiders to the conflict. The worldwide market for mercenaries and private military contractors is worth more than \$100 billion, and the lines that differentiate the two are blurry. The United Nations has outlawed mercenaries, creating encouragement for PMSCs to disassociate themselves with the label, therefore the more modern term is utilized, “contractors”. However, PMSCs have not completely replaced the mercenary figure from warfare.

### Private Military and Security Contractor

The nature of the UN definition of mercenaries stands for “any individual working under the label of Private Military and Security Company can simply call himself/herself a Private Military and Security Contractor, employed by said company and therefore protected from the infamous mercenary label”.

### Private Military and Security Company

The distinction between Mercenaries and PMSC is minor but significant; it is a language distinction that determines their legal status. The term PMSC can be used to refer to the firms that benefit from the offering of military and security-related

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<sup>1</sup> “United Nations, Main Body, Main Organs, General Assembly.” *United Nations*, United Nations, <https://www.un.org/en/ga/first/index.shtml>.

expertise that was formerly considered a state preserve and provided by military, police, and intelligence forces. PMSCs (Private Military and Security Companies) sell security and military services both domestically and internationally. These companies have moved from the edge of international politics to the corporate boardroom over the previous ten years, becoming a recognised part of the military industry.<sup>2</sup>The services offered by PMSCs are similar to governmental security, military or police empowerment, often in a smaller percentage. Thus PMSCs generally provide services for training or to make them stronger the official armed forces in service of governments, or the private companies provide them to be employed for providing bodyguards for key staff or protection of company premises, most effectively in hostile territories. Since the 1990s, governments started to rely heavily on these private armed forces.

### The Geneva Conventions

The Geneva Conventions are basically for treaties, and three additional protocols which are mainly based on the treatment of civilians, prisoner of wars (POWs) and soldiers. In this study guide, the significance of The Geneva Conventions is that the use and recruitment of mercenaries are legally forbidden by the *1989 International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries*.<sup>3</sup>

### Global Security

International security, often known as global security, refers to the steps taken by governments and international organizations like the European Union, the United Nations, and others to secure mutual safety and survival. Military action and diplomatic agreements, such as conventions and treaties, are examples of these measurements. With the end of World War 2, a new field of academic study known as security studies emerged, which concentrates on international security. It began as a separate subject of study, but has now evolved into a subfield of international relations. Over time, the main content of international security has grown in size and scope. It now contains several types of interrelated world crises that are threatening survival. It includes everything from traditional or conventional military power, the causes and consequences of war between states, economic strength, trade and economic conflicts, ethical issues, religious and ideological conflicts, energy supplies, food, science and technology, and threats to human security and state stability caused by environmental degradation, infectious diseases, climate change, and non-state actors.

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<sup>2</sup> Mathieu, F. and Dearden, N. (2006). 'Corporate Mercenaries: The threat of private military and security companies', War on Want, London.  
[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2009\\_2014/documents/droi/dv/805\\_mercenaries\\_/805\\_mercenaries\\_en.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2009_2014/documents/droi/dv/805_mercenaries_/805_mercenaries_en.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> *Ch XVIII 6 Volume - United Nations Treaty Collection*.  
[https://treaties.un.org/doc/Treaties/1989/12/19891204%2008-54%20AM/Ch\\_XVIII\\_6p.pdf](https://treaties.un.org/doc/Treaties/1989/12/19891204%2008-54%20AM/Ch_XVIII_6p.pdf).

## Introduction to the Topic

Private military and security companies have grown significantly in recent years, providing services in low-intensity armed conflict and post-conflict nations such as Afghanistan, the Balkans, Colombia, the Congo, Iraq, Somalia, and Sudan. Changes in political, economic, and social institutions over the previous 30 years, as well as public perception of conflicts, are responsible for the rise of PMSCs. PMSCs let governments to cover their tracks and avoid accountability; they are often unaccountable to the government or the public, allowing governments to evade legal entanglements. Thousands of people from developed and developing countries throughout the world have been recruited to work for these private military and security companies. PMSCs have become such an integral part of war efforts that it is thought that some major Western countries, such as the United Kingdom and the United States, would struggle to wage war without them.

In a conflict region like Iraq, however, the boundary between combat and combat support is blurred. Regular soldiers and their private support workers tasked with protecting convoys or materials are frequently indistinguishable. Human rights violations are a constant concern in such conditions, and holding PMSC workers accountable for their actions is nearly impossible. Therefore, as a matter of urgency, governments must establish legislation to regulate the PMSC industry. PMSC involvement in all types of direct combat and combat support, in their widest sense, must be addressed by law. The industry's self-regulation is not an option.

## Detailed Background of the Issue

The rising involvement of PMSCs in conflict zones creates a number of concerns, ranging from inherent transparency and accountability issues to widespread public dislike for firms that profit from conflict. Furthermore, several PMSCs have previously been implicated in numerous scandals of human rights violations and unlawful activities.

### Privatization of Military

PMSCs have supplied crucial force for developing country governments in exchange for a share of the profits derived from the use of that force. Since the 1990s, governments started to rely heavily on these private armed forces. In 2003, ArmorGroup estimated that the international market for protective security services was worth approximately US\$900 million (US\$300 million in Iraq), rising to an estimated US\$1.7 billion (US\$900 million in Iraq) by August 2004. As US and UK forces withdraw, industry officials predict that the number will continue to rise. Other

experts estimate that total revenues for all PMSCs around the world, generally defined, could already be close to \$100 billion.

The reason behind the constant growth of the international market for protective security services is the desire of governments to maintain their global reach while evading accountability from a general public increasingly unwilling to pay the costs of war. This is considered as disastrous for democracy by many academics.

### **Blurred Boundaries**

There are many examples of incidents that demonstrate that in a conflict zone, like Iraq, with the combat in the middle of cities with unclear distinctions between combatant and non-combatant, it becomes nearly impossible to differentiate defensive and offensive roles. This fact shows that security provision necessarily involves military engagement.

### **Human Rights Violations**

PMSCs frequently operate outside of government control and with very limited oversight from state agencies. They provide services ranging from interrogation to strategic intelligence in an area that can result in torture and harsh treatment, as well as violations of rights such as freedom of movement and privacy. When private security guards are implicated in crimes or human rights breaches, they are neither sanctioned or brought before a court of justice, as exemplified by contractors' involvement in torture and shootings against civilians in Iraq.

The distinction between public and private functions and activities has been increasingly blurred as this relatively new industry has grown. Public and private activities are intermingled and very difficult to identify, especially in an area that has historically been associated with government security. Domestic security is supposed to be provided by the police, while external security is expected to be provided by an army capable of protecting the territory and sovereignty. With all of this in mind, the UN Charter's principle of "collective security" is founded on the principles of sovereignty, effective control, and regulation of each of the World Organization's 192 member states' legitimate use of force.

In conflict or post-conflict regions like Afghanistan and Iraq, where PMSCs supply security and protection to humanitarian NGO's, it has become hard for the general public and government authorities to distinguish one from the other. While carrying out their activities in conditions of violent or low-intensity conflict, "private contractors" working for PMSCs may commit abuses and human rights violations. Human rights violations are a constant threat in such situations, and holding PMSC employees accountable for their acts is nearly impossible. In a combat zone with



active hostilities. There have been instances where PMSC workers have used restricted arms or experimental ammunition, both of which are illegal under international law. Other PMSCs have been involved in such incidents, including the murder of four women in Kirkuk and the involvement in the shooting of two Iraqi women by employees of another PMSC protecting a convoy in central Baghdad. PMSC-related incidents have been frequent in Iraq's reconstruction following the country's 2003 occupation; other PMSC have also been involved in similar incidents. Outsourcing military and security functions carries the danger of losing control over the use of force by the government. On June 27, 2004, the Administrator of the Coalition Provisional Authority issued Order 17 in Iraq.

## Major Countries Involved

### Iraq

Many governments wanted to maintain their global reach and to become involved in politically sensitive conflicts without the repercussions associated with committing their own troops. Thus, PMSCs have grown exponentially in recent years due to the occupation of Iraq. Private military and security companies (PMSCs) now constitute the second largest occupying force in Iraq behind the US military.

### The UK

PMSCs and their operations are not regulated in the United Kingdom. When the UK government released its Green Paper in 2002, it demonstrated that it was acutely aware of many of the challenges posed by PMSCs, expressing a general preference for some type of licensing scheme similar to that which exists for arms exports. However, the Green Paper was written before the Iraq War. Since then, the PMSC sector has grown exponentially, as have the accompanying abuses. Regulation has been needed for a long time.

### The USA

While PMSCs vary enormously in size and scope of operations, a few US and UK-based corporations have come to particular international attention. PMSC operatives were used extensively during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. In those two conflicts the United States and its allies extended their reliance on PMSCs, creating an opportunity for new actors.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> *Swed Burland Submission - OHCHR | Home.*  
<https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Mercenaries/WG/ImmigrationAndBorder/swed-burland-submission.pdf>.

## Possible Solutions

- International criminal organisations, including Colombian death squads, are reported to have paid PMSCs including Spearhead, which was staffed by former Israeli army officers, for counterintelligence and advanced warfare assistance. Incidents like these show that the current laws are weak and ineffective, and that the most urgent and most important solution is the establishment of a legislation to regulate the PMSC industry all over the world. This must include and address the PMSC involvement in all types of direct combat support, in their widest sense.
- Evidence of governments using PMSCs in order to evade accountability, which may be made available to the public under freedom of information legislation is impossible to obtain from private contractors. Therefore, there is an instant need for a new legislation that clarifies the boundaries while ensuring that public will be informed about all the activities of PMSCs and privatization of military and security in the widest sense possible.
- The definition of combat is not at all clear. Operating a weapon in the field is only one tiny aspect of what combat entails, with the introduction of new technologies. For any attempts to regulate the activities of PMSCs, recognition of this complexity has important implications.
- Any government department which outsources a service to a PMSC must remain fully responsible for the conduct of that PMSC. Investigations against allegations of human rights abuse by PMSC employees must be accorded the same importance as investigations against members of the armed forces.

## Useful Links and Bibliography

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