

United Nations Special Political and Decolonization Committee Chair Report

THAIMUN IX



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CONTENTS...

Brief Overview of Committee	2
Agenda 1: The question of regulating cyber warfare	
i) General Overview	3
ii) Key Terms	4
iii) Examples	6
iv) Main Players	7
v) Key questions/Ideas:	9
vi) Bibliography	10
Agenda 2 The question of territorial claims and freedom of navigation within the Arctic Ocean	
i) General Overview	12
ii) History	13
iii) Defining Key Terms	20
iv) Main Players	22
v) Key questions/Ideas	23
vi) Bibliography	24



Brief Overview of Committee

Forming one of the United Nations' six main committees, the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL) was initially created as a result of the General Assembly Resolution 47/233 in 1993 to discuss the topics of decolonization and the significant as well as politically sensitive matters. The United Nations has always been steadfast in eradicating colonialism globally and in its entirety, hence the establishment of SPECPOL.

Commonly, people will refer to the committee as the C-24 committee, which is reflective of the original composition of the 24 member states within the committee. These 24 members have been and still are responsible for both the monitoring as well as advising regarding the non self-governing territories where current issues that warrant discussion

may lie. Recognizing the importance for these states to grasp a personal understanding of these territories, the general assembly has requested these states to conduct at least 1 visiting mission annually to check up on and analyze stakeholders. Delegates should be reminded that the approval of the use of force is only allowed for the Security Council.

Being a subsidiary organ of the UN general assembly, it has since its creation been a committee that discusses an even more diverse range of political issues and topics, often pertaining to subjects such as UN peacekeeping, territorial disputes, peace in outer space, and various other United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions. This expanse is largely due to the merging with the Special Political Committee following the granting of independence to all United Nations trust territories as well as the proper eradication of the trusteeship system itself. What SPECPOL has accomplished is no small feat, as the independence granted to as many as 80 former colonies would indicate.

Despite the many accomplishments that have resulted since the creation of this committee, millions still remain living in NSGTs, up to 17 NSGTs remain on the



agenda to be discussed, and many pressing political issues are far from resolved. Peacefully satisfying every country's needs and wills is a tough and demanding job but to do so is a very laudable one. We hope that delegates will be ready to tackle a few of these issues for themselves.

Agenda 1: The question of regulating cyber warfare

i) General Overview

In layman's terms cyberwarfare can be described as a cyber attack or series of attacks that target a country. It has the potential to wreak havoc on government and civilian infrastructure and disrupt critical systems, resulting in damage to the state and even loss of life. This new battle ground has only emerged over the last few decades, as technology continues to grow at an unprecedented rate, this field will only get larger.

Given every party's unfamiliarity with this new dimension of warfare, there is no universal, formal, definition for how a cyber attack may constitute an act of war. Given the ambiguous parameters of this new dimension of warfare, the regulation of it seems to pose quite a challenge. However, it is imperative that this issue must be resolved immediately, as the various states continue to utilize this new field, specifically its ambiguity and newness to throw off other nations and the scope for further harm only seems to be increasing. Additionally, it is common for terrorist organizations or non-state actors to carry out such strikes on similar organizations or even certain states with the aim of destabilization.

While the absolute abandonment of such warfare isn't realistic, the regulation of it is well within reach. There are seven main types of attacks, espionage, sabotage, denial of service attacks, electrical power grid attacks, propaganda, economic destruction and surprise attacks. While most of them are nation to nation attacks, some of them lead to an immense amount of harm on civilians, in some cases causing casualties. However, currently there are systems that can be implemented to shield nations and private sector organizations from such attacks. Some examples include, conducting risk assessments with cyber wargames, creating a layered defense, the ability to quickly respond, implementing a national cybersecurity assurance framework, facilitating cooperation between the public and private sectors and many more.

Currently, the world is also going through a change with the dawn of quantum computing. This new age with extremely powerful computers comes with new dangers and potential for weaponization. Government agencies and industry groups all around the globe have expressed a growing sense of urgency when it comes to transitioning to a quantum safe future. While certain experts do say that this technology will take several decades before it reaches full fruition, the use of this would not only destabilize nations but also infiltrate and break down their economies.

ii) Key Terms

- Espionage
 - Refers to a form of cyber attack that steals classified, sensitive data or intellectual property to gain an advantage over a competitive company or government entity.
- Sabotage
 - Government organizations must determine sensitive information and the risks if it is compromised. Hostile governments or terrorists may steal

information, destroy it, or leverage insider threats such as dissatisfied or careless employees, or government employees with affiliation to the attacking country. It is essentially a foreign entity controlling the censorious infrastructure of a nation.

- Denial-of-service (DoS) Attacks
 - DoS attacks prevent legitimate users from accessing a website by flooding it with fake requests and forcing the website to handle these requests. This type of attack can be used to disrupt critical operations and systems and block access to sensitive websites by civilians, military and security personnel, or research bodies.
- Electrical Power Grid
 - Attacking the power grid allows attackers to disable critical systems, disrupt infrastructure, and potentially result in physical harm. Attacks on the power grid can also disrupt communications and render services such as text messages and communications unusable.
- Propaganda Attacks
 - Attempts to control the thoughts and opinions of people living in or fighting for a target country. Propaganda is a state sponsored activity which can be used to expose embarrassing truths, spread lies to make people lose trust in their country, or side with their enemies.
- Economic Disruption
 - Most modern economic systems operate using computers. Attackers can target computer networks of economic establishments such as stock markets, payment systems, and banks to steal money or block people from accessing the funds they need.
- Surprise Attacks
 - These are the cyber equivalent of attacks like Pearl Harbor and 9/11. The point is to carry out a massive attack that the enemy isn't expecting, enabling the attacker to weaken their defenses. This can be done to prepare the ground for a physical attack in the context of hybrid warfare.
- Cyber Wargames
 - When an organization conducts a real-life exercise or simulation to see the weaknesses in their system. A wargame can test how governments and private organizations respond to a cyber warfare scenario, expose gaps in defenses, and improve cooperation between entities. Most importantly, a wargame can help defenders learn how to act quickly to protect critical infrastructure and save lives.

iii) Examples

- Microsoft Exchange
 - Chinese hacking group Hafnium found vulnerabilities in Microsoft Exchange that gave them access to the email accounts of at least 30,000 organizations in the U.S. and 250,000 globally. The organization is also known to primarily target US entities with the goal of exfiltrating information from a number of industry sectors, including infectious disease researchers, law firms, higher education institutions, defense contractors, policy think tanks and NGOs.
 - Soon after Microsoft disclosed the bugs and started fixing the email server vulnerabilities, at least 10 other advanced persistent threat groups began exploiting the security flaws for coin mining and espionage.
 - A month later, the FBI hacked hundreds of computers in the U.S. running compromised versions of Microsoft Exchange software and removed malicious web shells in response to the Chinese state-sponsored attack.
- Stuxnet Virus
 - Stuxnet was a worm that attacked the Iranian nuclear program. It is among the most sophisticated cyber attacks in history. The malware spread via infected Universal Serial Bus devices and targeted data acquisition and supervisory control systems. According to most reports, the attack seriously damaged Iran's ability to manufacture nuclear weapons.
- Sony Pictures Hack
 - An attack on Sony Pictures followed the release of the film "The Interview", which presented a negative portrayal of Kim Jong Un. The attack is attributed to North Korean government hackers. The FBI found similarities to previous malware attacks by North Koreans, including code, encryption algorithms, and data deletion mechanisms.
- Bronze Soldier
 - In 2007, Estonia relocated a statue associated with the Soviet Union, the Bronze Soldier, from the center of its capital Tallinn to a military cemetery near the city. Estonia suffered a number of significant cyber attacks in the following months. Estonian government websites, media outlets, and banks were overloaded with traffic in massive denial of service (DoS) attacks and consequently were taken offline.
- Fancy Bear
 - CrowdStrike claims that the Russian organized cybercrime group Fancy Bear targeted Ukrainian rocket forces and artillery between 2014 and

2016. The malware was spread via an infected Android application used by the D-30 Howitzer artillery unit to manage targeting data.

- Ukrainian officers made wide use of the app, which contained the X-Agent spyware. This is considered to be a highly successful attack, resulting in the destruction of over 80% of Ukraine's D-30 Howitzers.
- Springhill Medical Center
 - In 2019, a Tyranny Kidd sued Springhill Medical Center on the grounds that the hospital, Springhill Medical Center, didn't tell her that hospital computers were down because of a cyberattack, and subsequently gave her severely diminished care when she arrived to deliver her daughter. Later on in 2020 her daughter died due to severe brain damage caused during the time of delivery and Kidd would go on to amend her lawsuit.
 - This was after Springhill announced in 2019 that it had been the victim of a "network security incident," in other words, a cyberattack. Ransomware, where hackers lock up a victim's computers and demand payment for a program to make them usable again, is a surging, multibillion-dollar worldwide cybercriminal industry. Around 850 health care networks and hospitals in the U.S. were affected by ransomware in 2021.

iv) Main Players

- Russia
 - Russia has been accused of committing cyber attack on the US as early as 1996 with the Moonlight Maze attack, one of the first nation state sponsored cyber espionage campaigns. This involved the theft of a massive amount of classified information from numerous government agencies, including the Department of Energy, NASA, and the Defense Department (DoD), as well as defense contractors, and private sector entities. It seriously compromised U.S. national security capabilities, strategies, and interests.
 - Since then Russia has allegedly gone on to attack various private sector firms in the US which show its cyber aggression. One of their most recent attacks was allegedly on SolarWinds' Orion network monitoring software.
 - While the United States has acknowledged this and called for diplomatic solutions to it, the two states don't seem to be able to find common ground.
- China
 - China has been accused of creating a whole new wing within their defense forces for cyber attacks. It has been accused of numerous attacks on the

United States in terms of their national critical infrastructure and private industry.

- Some examples can be the cyber attack on the US defense giant Lockheed Martin, which reportedly gave the Chinese critical information on the F-35 Lightning II stealth Fighter Aircraft. A few years later reports surfaced regarding the similarities between the J-31 fighter China is developing and the F-35 currently in service with the United States Air Force. China has also been accused of the massive attack on Microsoft in March 2021. Nearly 250,000 organizations have been victims of Chinese state sponsored cyber attacks and such Chinese sponsored criminal cyber activities are at an all time high.
- However, China consistently denies being involved in hacking despite the attempts by the US and others to embarrass it. In July, China's foreign ministry accused Washington of "ganging up with its allies" and engaging in "smear and suppression out of political motives".
- North Korea
 - Similar to China, North Korea is also allegedly developing a cyber attacking wing in their defense forces. There have also been multiple accounts of cyber attacks and espionage sponsored by North Korea.
 - Multiple UN reports state that North Korea has been funding its Missile Programme through stolen Crypto currency. According to UN reports, the nation has stolen around USD 3 billion through cyber-attacks targeted at least three cryptocurrency exchanges in North America, Europe and Asia.
 - The UN has also reported a "Marked Acceleration" in the Nuclear Missile programme. Although the nation shouldn't have enough funds for a programme like this due to crippling sanctions posed by other member UN nations, the programmes run on stolen money. In addition to this, the nation has joined a handful of nations with hypersonic Missiles with China's aid in intellectual property.

v) Key questions/Ideas:

Although the main issue is regulating this new dimension of warfare, it is critical to understand the current boundaries this field has and to what extent reasonable limitations can be placed. Some key Ideas for the discussion can be:

- What constitutes a cyber attack?
- What level of a cyber attack can be defined as an act of war?
- Which types of attacks must be marked outside the boundaries of ethical warfare?

- What agreements must nations sign and adhere to in order to maintain world peace in the future?

Since 2018, the UN Secretary-General António Guterres has asserted that a lack of rules regulating cyberwar constitutes a global threat the international community must address. This is due to the fact that cyberwars between states are already underway and that "we have not been able to discuss whether . . . the Geneva Conventions apply to cyberwar or whether . . . international humanitarian law applies to cyberwar."

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Agenda 2 The question of territorial claims and freedom of navigation within the Arctic Ocean

j) General Overview

At this very moment, the ice of the Arctic Ocean continues to melt and it is doing so rather quickly. While rising sea levels remain a huge concern as a result of the melting polar ice caps, the Arctic circle that passes through the Arctic Ocean is becoming the center of more and more maritime boundary disputes. This can be attributed to the facts that the melting of this ice has led to more frequently accessible shorter shipping routes as well as the predictions that depict the magnitude in which it is rich in natural resources. Becoming a global hotspot that is of development and increasing ocean traffic, the Arctic Ocean is seeing interest from major powers and stakeholders from all over. The problem therefore lies in that not all parties understandably agree on which part belongs to who, or if any individual part should belong to any country at all to begin with. Despite the establishment of EEZs and UNCLOS as well as the many individual research reports submitted, the disputed overlapping territorial claims lead to nigh inevitable conflicts; if not tread carefully, this can lead to the further escalation of international tensions already present in the region. In addition to settling territorial disputes, there is also less and less time to implement and enforce the necessary measures to protect the environment of the Arctic as it faces climate change in a manner it has never before seen.



ii) History

1903:

- Establishment of Canada's North-West Mounted Police detachment on Herschel Island for the purpose of sovereignty security in the western Arctic

1907:

- 20 February - Pascal Poirier, a Canadian Senator, proposes a resolution for the Canadian Senate with the suggestion to declare the possession of lands as well as islands that lie between Canada and the North Pole.
- 6 April - Admiral Peary of the United States of America plants a US flag at the North Pole with the (unsubstantiated) claim of the North Pole for the United States of America.
- 1 July - Captain Joseph-Elzéar Bernier, a Canadian mariner, reveals a plaque on Melville Island that officially claimed the Arctic Islands for Canada.

1910-1915:

- The Russian Imperial Navy embarks on the Arctic Ocean Hydrographic Expedition that is done so for exploring, surveying, and charting the Northern Sea Route in the interest of commercial purposes.
 - The Northern Sea Route is transversed for the first time during this period.

1925:

- 1 June - The Northwest Territories Act is amended and Canada thus becomes the first state to ever claim the extension of its boundaries into the Arctic, reaching the North Pole.
- 15 April - In response to Canada's recent territorial claim, the USSR declares in its issued Arctic Decree that any and all lands and islands between the USSR and the North Pole in fact belonged to the USSR.

1926:

- 19 July - Canada establishes the Arctic Island Game Preserve that addresses issues of sovereignty in the Arctic Archipelago as well as the preservation of Inuit populations that are within this region. The Preserve was known to assist Canada's assertion of its own sovereignty over a large portion of the Archipelago.

1945:

- 28 September - The United States president, Harry S. Truman, establishes Proclamation 2667 that ensures the right for freedom of navigation in such a territory from the US's shores remain unaffected and that its continental shelf resources officially belong to the US's as has been said in the past by them.

1946:

- Canadian ambassador, Lester Pearson looks to additionally claim the frozen sea itself that lies from the mainland all the way up towards the North pole for Canada.

1969:

- US oil tanker, the SS Manhattan crosses the Northwest Passage as the first ever commercial vessel. Some controversy lies in that records show Humble Oil, who owned SS Manhattan, did not formally ask Canada for the permission to actually make this journey.

1971:

- 22 December - The US establishes the National Security Decision Memorandum 144 that in summary highlights the US's desire for the limiting of negative environmental impacts, international cooperation throughout the Arctic, sound and rational development, and includes conversation on "the protection of essential security interests in the Arctic"

1973:

- 17 December - Major stakeholders, Canada and the Kingdom of Denmark come to and sign an agreement regarding the delimitation of the continental shelf that lies between Greenland and Canada. Having done this, it is submitted to the United Nations. It should be noted that an agreement has not been reached on the sovereignty of Hans Island, an uninhabited island that happens to lie right on the territorial divide and thus ends up on both sides.

1974:

- 13 March - The delimitation agreement submitted by Canada and the Kingdom of Denmark in the previous year enters into force in which both parties agree how to distinguish the territories between the two, with a delayed decision still on the Hans Island.

1982:

- 10 December - The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) is officially signed and States are free to ratify.
 - Importantly, the convention includes Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) that grants a nation the ability to extend its own sovereignty beyond what was initially allowed, which are the limits of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) if the claim that the continental shelf of a country extends further can be substantiated with proof under review.

1984:

- 28 July - Denmark raises its flag on Hans Island, despite it still being disputed. Canada and Denmark lay claim to the disputed island.
- 31 July - For the purpose of furthering Arctic research, the US establishes the US Arctic Research Commission under the Arctic Research and Policy Act of 1984.

1985:

- Polar Sea, an icebreaker of the United States' travels through Northwest Passage in which while notification was had from the US government to Canada, the crossing was done so without being granted formal permission to do so, leading to much opposition and controversy in Canada who argues this to be a case of a breach of national sovereignty.

1988:

- 11 January - In light of the United States' recent Northwest Passage crossing without Canadian government consent, an agreement on Arctic Cooperation between Canada and the US is had where Canada's position is reaffirmed that the passage does lie within Canadian internal waters.

1991:

- 10 December - The Russian Federation makes and submits its first claim to the CLCS on as much as 1.2 million kilometers of territory that happens to also include the North Pole. Russia was thus the very first Arctic State to actually do this, which is also actually in accordance with the provisions that have been given by UNCLOS.

1994:

- UNCLOS is officially put into force after gaining the required signatures. Particularly relevant to the Arctic ocean is on topics pertaining to the Continental

Shelf (especially for the coastal states of the Arctic) and the establishment of the International Sea Bed Authority (ISA) and EEZs.

1996:

- 24 June - A ratification is made by Norway to UNCLOS that allows Norway to submit claims to the CLCS, regardless of whether it is disputed.
- 19 September - The Ottawa Declaration of 1996 leads to the emergence of the Arctic Council that oversees and discusses common Arctic issues, sustainable development, environmental preservation, and education of the Arctic.
 - Member states include Canada, the United States, the Russian Federation, the Kingdom of Denmark, Iceland, Finland, Norway, and Sweden. In addition to these, there exists six international organizations that represent the people indigenous to the Arctic and retain a permanent participant status.

1997:

- 12 March - Like Norway had done earlier, the Russian Federation makes a similar ratification to the UNCLOS that provides the same benefit of allowing Russia to submit its own disputed territorial claims to the CLCS.

2001:

- 20 December - The Russian Federation submits its claim to the CLCS of the Lomonosov Ridge as an extension of Russia's continental shelf. Decision on this claim would later in 2002 be put on hold by the UN Commission that recommends further research.
 - The significance of this claim was astounding since if this claim was supported, Russia would be able to officially lay claim to about half of the entire Arctic Ocean, which would happen to also include the North Pole itself.

2001:

- 7 November - A ratification is made by Canada to UNCLOS for the submission of disputed claims to the CLCS.

2003:

- 16 November - A ratification is made by Denmark to UNCLOS for the submission of disputed claims to the CLCS.

2005:

- 13 July - Canadian Forces make their first visit to Hans Island and replace the Danish flag with the Canadian one, leaving its plaque and an Inukshuk.

2006:

- 27 November - Norway submits a claim to the CLCS to resolve a handful of its territorial sea disputes by submitting evidence to substantiate its claims to such areas.
- 1 - December - The Norwegian Government releases the report, High North Strategy, clarifying the importance of Norwegian policy in the Arctic in the long-term.

2007:

- 2 August - During the Arktika sea expedition, Russian explorers plant a titanium deep-sea flag that lies 14,000 feet below the North Pole in symbolically claiming it. The expedition itself was to collect further evidence to substantiate Russia's ongoing claim of the Lomonosov Ridge.

2008:

- 6 February- With the Bush Administration in US, Chukchi Sea Lease Sale 193 occurred as Arctic waters were opened to energy development prior to the declaration of such a practice as illegal by the DC Circuit Court of Appeals. Future lease sales would later be canceled by the Obama administration but the one Chukchi Lease Sale 193 was kept intact and amounted to almost 2.7 million USD.
- May - The US completes its Geological Survey (USGS) "Circum-Arctic Resource Appraisal: Estimates of Undiscovered Oil and Gas North of the Arctic Circle" that predicts a large amount of natural resources that remain in the Arctic.

2009:

- 28 May - The Ilulissat Declaration is announced by the five bordering coastal states of the Arctic Ocean at a meeting to discuss relevant Arctic issues, including but are not limited to climate change, the marine environment, and emergency responsibilities.

- 27 March - Norway receives a response from CLCS in the form of recommendations in the clarification of territorial disputes. In these recommendations, the CLCS notably recommends that Norway and Russia pursue their own individual agreements.

2010:

- 1 February - The Department of Defense makes a release of the “Quadrennial Defense Review” that emphasizes the significance of climate change within the Arctic and the need to achieve goals to handle the situation for the decades to come.
- 15 September - The Russian Federation and Norway proceed to sign their Treaty on Maritime Delimitation and Cooperation in the Barents Sea and the Arctic Ocean.
- 27 October - The United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) urges the importance of taking action to protect the Arctic diversity, taking into account the threats from the region in the release of Protecting Arctic Biodiversity: Limitations and Strengths of Environmental Agreements.

2011:

- 7 July - Norway and the Russian Federation ratify their treaty, effectively resolving their dispute over the area in the Barents Sea, which practically splits the disputed territory into halves.

2012:

- 17 October to 31 December - Shell Oil Company of the US is given approval that allows it to conduct its offshore oil drilling in the Chukchi Sea. Later on in December, Shell’s Conical Drilling Unit would run ashore and later be towed away safely without releasing dangerous substances to the environment. Such an incident is marked by critics as proof of oil companies’ insufficient safety measures in the exploration and development of energy resources within the Arctic.

2013:

- April 15 - Iceland President Olafur Ragnar Grimsson announces the Arctic Circle as a nonprofit that aims to collectively allow international stakeholders to address issues together in an open venue.
- September to October - Greenpeace campaigners protest potential threats to the environment as a result of operations set to start this year. Warning shots were fired by Russian coast guards that have arrested and charged activists with piracy.

- December - Canada seeks to expand its Atlantic sea boundary greatly, which signals its intentions to claim the North Pole. This prompts Russia's president, Vladimir Putin, to order the military to increase its presence in the Arctic.

2014-2015:

- Russia continues to increase military presence in the region and presses a claim for even more territory of the Arctic shelf, which is already seeing much international tension.
- The US Interior Department cancels any and all future oil lease sales in Arctic waters that extend off the northern coast of Alaska.

2017:

- It is noted by the UN World Meteorological Organization that the extent of sea ice within the Arctic reached its lowest record in January while carbon dioxide levels reached an all time high in the atmosphere.
- 10 July - The Japanese Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe, pledges to increase its cooperation with Finland as well as further increase its relations with Russia.

2019:

- 9 April - Russia continues its efforts with a program to secure its foothold in the Arctic, including the construction of new ports as well as additional infrastructure facilities.
- 26 July - The Arctic suffers its most abnormal and worst wildfire season on record, releasing millions of tons of carbon dioxide.

2020:

- 8 December - Scientists in their annual assessment of the Arctic region cite the effects of an almost record-warming surge that spans the region for the thrust of the Arctic towards a climate new to the Arctic.

2021:

- 28 February - Russia launches Arktika-M, its space satellite, to monitor the climate and environment of the Arctic as well as to increase Russia's activity in the region even further.
- 14 December - The highest ever temperature reading of 38-degrees Celsius in the Arctic is made in Verkhoyansk, a Russian town, by the UN weather agency.

- 17 December - The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration made a report that documents how the Arctic is warming at a rate that is from approximately two to three times faster than the rest of Earth.

iii) Defining Key Terms

- Hotspot
 - A geographical area characterized by high vulnerability and exposure to climate change. (from UNTERM)
- Maritime
 - With relation to the sea
- Boundary dispute
 - A disagreement between two entities regarding where the boundary between countries may lie
- Demilitation
 - Fixing down the boundaries
- Maritime boundary delimitation
 - Delimitation of the territorial sea, the exclusive economic zone, the contiguous zone and the continental shelf between States with adjacent or opposite coasts. (from UNTERM)
- Ocean traffic
 - Movements of multiple vessels across an area in the ocean
- Arctic Ocean
 - One of Earth's five major oceans. The Arctic Circle is a region that passes through it. The Arctic is the region of all that is north of the Arctic Circle.
- Major power
 - A state with the ability to exert influence at a global scale
- Stakeholder
 - An individual or group with interest in a particular topic under discussion
- Party
 - One of the groups of people that are involved in a particular argument
- Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)
 - The area that extends 200 nautical miles from the coast of a state's boundary, which enables the sovereign state to have exclusive rights over certain economic activities, including fishing and drilling
- United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)

- An international agreement that provides and establishes a comprehensive legal framework for which any and all marine and maritime activities are included.
- Territorial Claim
 - To assert that a particular territory belongs to a specific party
- Climate change
 - The change in a regional climate pattern over time
- Act
 - A law produced through legislature
- Sovereignty
 - The ability to have a self-governing state
- Natural resources
 - Useful materials and substances that occur in nature and can be harvested for gain.
- Continental Shelf
 - A portion of a continent that remains submerged under shallow water. Much individual research is being done by countries in the Arctic to substantiate their claims over more territory.
- Commission on the Limits of Continental Shelf (CLCS)
 - A commission specifically for the implementation of the UNCLOS in regards to outer limits that extend past the EEZ. It can make recommendations to coastal States on this topic.
- International Seabed Authority (ISA)
 - An international organization primarily for the regulation of mining and activities related to the such in the international seabed that goes beyond what the national jurisdiction is of the state. Most of the world's oceans can be classified as such.
- Ratification
 - Signing or giving a formal and official consent to any treaty, contract, or agreement
- Treaty
 - A binding formal agreement between countries that establishes their obligations

iv) Main Players

The Arctic Circle is split among eight countries. These eight are the following: Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, the Russian Federation, and the United States. Of those eight, five have a coastal frontal within the Arctic Ocean, which are all thus very directly involved... It should be noted, however, that countries outside of this are certainly still involved and have their respective and strategic goals in mind in choosing which countries and policies to support.

Norway

Norway's Arctic territory actually makes up nearly half of the entire country's land mass and is home to a population of approximately 490,000 people. This is one tenth of the Norwegian population. The maritime area of this arctic territory makes up roughly 1.5 million square kilometers. In this territory, it actually also happens to house the northernmost university in the world that participates in research in the topics of natural and social sciences with the inclusion of technology. In the Arctic, Norway has been interested in and remains invested in improving stability, security, and international cooperation based on interest in the region.

The Russian Federation

Russia's coastline towards the Arctic Ocean is massive and constitutes 53 percent of its entirety. It has recently been increasing activity in the Arctic massively, as evident from recent programs and missions. Russia's own Arctic policy has remained mostly consistent since its carnation, which continues to focus largely on issues with security and sustainable socio economic development within the region. What Russia thus seeks to do is to balance the weights of international cooperation with its own needs in national security.

The United States

The United States' coastline is in Alaska, which is the northernmost point in the US that marks the boundary of the marginal seas in the Arctic Ocean. The priority of the United States emphasizes the following as stated in their Arctic Policy, "environmental protection, sustainable development, human health, and the role of indigenous people and other Arctic residents as stakeholders in the Arctic". The US aims to make the Arctic region a place that can be both free of conflict and where its own national interests are safeguarded.

Canada

As much as 40 percent of Canada's landmass is in its northern territories making up its Arctic coastline. Understanding the potential that the Arctic holds for Canada's future as well as the embedding of the Arctic into its history and culture, Canada makes it clear that to exercise sovereignty over Northern Canada as it does over the rest of Canada is its one most important Arctic policy. It envisions the Arctic as a stable region with well defined boundaries and rules, bustling with economic growth and trade, healthy Northern communities, and productive and safe ecosystems.

Denmark

Greenland is the portion of Denmark that contains its Arctic coastal frontal in a central location within the Arctic. Denmark primarily prioritizes action over four main areas. These are security and sovereignty, sustainable development, climate change, and international cooperation. Denmark seeks to react and adapt to environmental and geopolitical changes in the region as a result of the quickly developing global interest in the region as well as become more active as one of the Arctic players in the ultimate pursuit of first benefitting the inhabitants of the Arctic, themselves.

v) Key questions/Ideas

There are more conflicts and scenarios than this that should be resolved. As such, this is not an exhaustive list of what questions should be answered. Nevertheless, the list includes and is thus certainly not limited to the following:

- How to ensure the protection of the environment and marine wildlife
- The continuation of sustainable development
- How to work with Indigenous peoples of the region
- Agreements on overlapping territorial disputes and claims
- How to proceed with navigation internationally in the region
- Addressing the increase in military presence and international tension
- The provision of financial resources to developing countries for reduction of emissions

As the Secretary General addressed to the Arctic Circle Assembly in 2016, "This is a critical moment for the Arctic region. You are wrestling with the implications of increased tourism, expanded shipping, management of your fisheries, and competition for oil and gas resources. The well-being of Arctic societies is at stake." Let us take everything into consideration before we take one step too far.

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