Forum: Security Council

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TOPIC (1): The issue of regulating non-traditional security threats

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I. Introduction to the Topic

Non-traditional security issues are challenges to the survival and well-being of peoples and states that arise primarily out of non-military sources, such as climate change, resource scarcity, infectious diseases, natural disasters, irregular migration, food shortages, people smuggling, drug trafficking and transnational crime. These dangers are often transnational in scope, defying unilateral remedies and requiring comprehensive, political, economic, and social responses, as well as humanitarian use of military force. Non-traditional recognizes that threats such as climate change, pandemics and financial crises are transnational and require non-military responses. Given that threats have transborder implications, international multilateral cooperation is critical.

Non- traditional security threats are important because they pose challenges to the survival and well-being of people and states, and often require comprehensive responses that go beyond national solutions. Non-traditional security issues are traditional, do not stem from competition between states, and are often defined in political and socioeconomic terms. The threats require a transnational approach and involve a variety of stakeholders, including regional and global institutions, national and local governments, and civil society. Non-traditional security threats have profound implications on the nature of security cooperation among states and global governance.

II. Definition of Key Terms & Concepts

Non-traditional security:

Non-traditional security issues include those that primarily stem from non-military sources and pose a threat to the survival and well-being of peoples and states. Examples of these issues include food shortages, irregular migration, infectious diseases, climate change, resource scarcity, people smuggling, drug trafficking, and transnational crime.

Multilateral cooperation:

A formal agreement reached by numerous countries or groupings of nations to increase the liberalized rates of trade in commodities and services between member states is known as multilateral cooperation. The significance of multilateral cooperation can be understood in several ways such as: Addressing global challenges, Promoting peace and stability, and Enhancing global governance.

Regulating:

Regulating, in general terms, refers to the process of creating and enforcing rules, laws, or guidelines to govern a particular system. It involves the establishment of frameworks, standards, and procedures that aim to shape and control the behavior of individuals, organizations, or institutions to achieve desired outcomes. They include Financial Stability, Public Health and Safety, Maintaining Fair Competition, etc.

Global cooperation:

Global cooperation refers to collaborative efforts and actions taken by countries and international organizations to address common challenges and achieve common goals. Involving nations working together, sharing resources, information, and expertise to tackle issues that transcend national boundaries, such as climate change, pandemics, terrorism, poverty, and nuclear proliferation.

Security Threat:

Security threat refers to any potential danger or risk to the safety, stability, and integrity of a nation or the international community. It encompasses various forms of threats, including military aggression, terrorism, proliferation of weapons, and regional conflicts. The significance of security threats lies in their potential to disrupt peace, stability, and development at various levels, from local communities to global security. Here are some reasons why security threats are important to address:

III. Key Stakeholders

International organisations:

Organizations like the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and the African Union play a crucial role in addressing non-traditional security threats through research, policy development, and coordination of efforts among member states.

Regional organizations:

Regional organizations, such as the European Union, the Organization of American States, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, work together to address non-traditional security challenges in their respective regions, fostering cooperation and coordination among member states.

National governments:

National governments are responsible for developing and implementing policies and regulations to address non-traditional security threats within their territories. They often collaborate with international and regional organizations to share best practices and resources.

Local authorities:

Local governments and authorities are responsible for implementing policies and programs to address non-traditional security threats at the community level. They often work closely with national and regional organizations to ensure a comprehensive approach to addressing these challenges.

Civil society:

Civil society organizations, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and think tanks, play a vital role in raising awareness, conducting research, and advocating for the adoption of effective policies to address non-traditional security threats.

International Monetary Fund

Because rising geopolitical tensions add new uncertainties, the international monetary fund touchbases on the economic side of non-traditional threat issues, and recognizes that the supply chain disruptions reaffirm the importance of a multilateral trading system based on the World Trade Organization rules.

International Criminal Court

The International Criminal Court is a human security organisation that covers global challenges such as terrorism, drug crime threatening regional and global security, as well as damage resulting from cybercrime.

IV. Key Issues including Background Information

Instability of Population

Issues such as low birth rates, illegal migrations, mass migration, and the refugee crisis are all associated with an unstable foundation of population and demographics within a country. The low birth rate is a relatively new global issue, which is shown and predicted through Japan and South Korea. Although the threats of low birth rates has not been identified yet, they may cause issues such as underdevelopment, strain of social welfare systems, demographic imbalances, and diminished national security forces.

Disease Pandemics

COVID-19 was the main and most recent outbreak of the disease. Pandemics such as this highly impact the economic, social, and political aspects of the country, which may cause significant harm to its stability and security. This includes government revenue invested into dealing with the treatment of the disease. Also, the government may face severe economic impacts that may cause political conflict within or between the regional nations.

Development of Technology

Due to the development of technology, issues such as cyberterrorism have increased very rapidly in the world. This puts all member states at high risk as it causes security threats to confidential and private information. This may connect to topics of General Assembly 1, especially with the atomization of various weapons. Not only this, the development of technology, such as social media and algorithms, has negatively impacted extremism and radicalism. The biassed nature of accessing information online causes extremist ideologies to form, which ultimately may lead to security issues.

Transnational Organised Crime

- Drug trafficking

Human trafficking

V. Timeline of Resolutions, Treaties, and Events

Date	Description of event
30 November-12 December 2023	United Nations Climate Change conferences: These conferences aim to address the threat of climate change, which is a significant non-traditional security challenge.
12 December 2015	Paris Agreement: The Paris Agreement is an international treaty that aims to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius.
1969, 1981, 2005	International Health Regulations: The International Health Regulations are a legally binding instrument that aims to prevent, protect against, control, and provide a public health response to the international spread of disease.
21 April 2022	Global Security Initiative: The Global Security Initiative is a concept paper that emphasizes the need for maintaining security in both traditional and non-traditional domains and enhancing security through political dialogue, peaceful negotiation, and sustainable development.
2022-2023	Regional organizations and forums: Regional organizations and forums, such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), and the European Union (EU), have also addressed non-traditional security threats through various initiatives and agreements.

VI. Possible Challenges & Solutions

Instability of Population

Issue of instability in the country's population usually occurs in low income countries and those with weak foundations of economics. Some presented solutions especially for low economically developed countries are: improving populations' access to healthcare and education aid through support in fund. Some African countries and Southeast Asian countries suffer from excessively high birth rates, which even exacerbates poverty, while some high income countries suffer from extremely low birth rates and ageing populations.

Disease Pandemics

Experts suggest a solution to be prevention rather than a solution after the outbreak. Some ways in which this can be done is: enhancing vaccine development and distribution, prioritising production and distribution of vaccines and ensuring equitable access to vaccines globally. In the Covid-19 outbreak, access to vaccines were highly limited or in extremely low quality for low income countries such as Burundi, Yemen, Haiti, Congo, Senegal and more, as most of them were being monopolised by high income countries, such as UAE, Chile, Portugal, Vietnam, China, Hongkong, etc.

Development of Technology

There are inequalities in development of technology considering inequalities in distribution of resources, monopolisation of resources, as well as education. Countries with highly advanced & stable foundation of technologies are; United States, South Korea, Denmark, Taiwan, India, Sweden.

Transnational Organized Crimes

Regarding surveillance and snooping, collaboration with Israel would be tremendously helpful in curbing international terrorism. Programs, such as Brazil's Pronasci ties together many components that were incentives of violence in the country, such as developing gun-free zones, local frameworks, and civic culture to reduce crime.

VII. Recommendations for writing resolutions

These threats are often complex and multifaceted, requiring comprehensive responses that go beyond military solutions. They may involve political, economic, social, and humanitarian aspects. Also, national solutions are often inadequate to address non-traditional security threats, necessitating regional and global cooperation. This requires building trust and complete institutional frameworks between countries. Educating people about the risks of non-traditional security threats and encouraging their participation in preventing and responding to these challenges is necessary.

Non-traditional security threats can transform into traditional ones if there is a lack of security threat control, administration, and legal mandatory regulations for businesses to prevent and participate in responding to these threats.

In the key issues & solutions section of this report, countries with specially significant impact on the issue were listed, so delegates who have those countries are reminded to read through the section carefully and thoroughly. In the issue of instability, low income countries and those with weak foundations of economics. Some presented solutions especially for low economically developed countries are: improving populations' access to healthcare and education aid through support in fund. Some African countries and Southeast Asian countries suffer from excessively high birth rates, which even exacerbates poverty, while some high income countries suffer from extremely low birth rates and ageing populations.For disease pandemics, especially from the case of covid 19, delegates should recognize that access to vaccines were highly limited for specifically low income countries such as Burundi, Yemen, Haiti, Congo, Senegal and more, as most of them were being monopolised by high income countries. Countries with highly advanced & stable foundation of technologies such as United States, South Korea, Denmark, Taiwan, India, Sweden, should draft their resolution on supporting the low income countries. Lastly, collaboration with Israel and Brazil would be tremendously helpful in curbing international terrorism.

There is a need to define non-traditional security and distinguish it from traditional security to address these challenges effectively.

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IX: Additional Resources

National Seminar Report

Non-Traditional Security Challenges to Pakistan
March 28, 2018

Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad