POLITICAL & SECURITY COMMITTEE

2019 TOPICS

Cybersecurity Threats
Safety of International Travelers
2019 TOPIC: CYBERSECURITY THREATS

Why this is important?
As technology advances and as more and more facets of daily life become digital, there is more risk in traveling the digital information highway. As more pieces of information are gathered and stored on the internet or done so digitally, governments are just as much at risk as everyday citizens. Many government agencies store sensitive information about citizens on digital servers which are at risk of being hacked or compromised by outside parties. Just as government data may be targeted by spies or terrorists, citizen data may also be a target of the government itself. Governmental spying on citizens’ activity online is an increasing threat as well.

Topic Summary and Background:
In the past decade, there have been dozens of high profile data breaches of multinational corporations. This data puts millions of people at risk of having their personal data stolen and mishandled by someone else. This risk is only expected to persist as the world continues to function digitally. The average consumer is not the only one at risk. Large retailers, government agencies, financial agencies, and media outlets are all at risk of being compromised by hackers and viruses.

Issues to be addressed in a Resolution:
1. Does the United Nations have a responsibility to protect the internet?
2. How can government data be protected online?
3. How can citizens be guaranteed privacy in a public platform?

Resources
Government Hacking

Cybersecurity Tips

Cybersecurity Trends
https://www.forbes.com/sites/gilpress/2018/12/03/60-cybersecurity-predictions-for-2019/#645a3a894352
2019 TOPIC: SAFETY OF INTERNATIONAL TRAVELERS

Why this is important?
International traveling has many benefits ranging from being a healthier individual to growing a better understanding of the world we live in and the people we who cohabit it with. Studies show that traveling will lower our chances for heart related complications by upwards of 30 percent. When a child experiences other cultures first hand they establish a sense of perspective and personal stance that is captivating to others they surround themselves with. When people travel internationally they begin to formulate their own thoughts and opinions instead of relying on what they read online or see on TV. Adam Galinsky, a professor at Columbia Business School Stated, “Foreign experiences increase both cognitive flexibility and depth and integrativeness of thought, the ability to make deep connections between disparate forms.” Having the ability to safely travel to other countries to experience their culture and way of life is essential to growth. According to a study that was conducted by CNN, more than two-thirds of global respondents, safety and security is of greatest concern when choosing an international travel destination. International travel goes beyond recreational travel, it also extends to travel for journalism and business. On average, every five days a journalist is killed for bringing information to the public. These attacks are carried out by organized crime, militias, local police and even governments. Journalists travel to some of the most dangerous parts of the world to report on the atrocities that are taking place there. They put their lives at risk to bring to light “the story”.

Topic Summary and Background:
International travel has become increasingly dangerous for journalists in recent years. Between 1992 and 2019 1,333 journalists have been killed, 855 of which were murdered. The recent car bombing that killed Awil Dahir Salad has attracted international attention. Awil and his 3 associates were killed when their car exploded at a military checkpoint near Mogadishu. UNESCO has publicly condemned the killing of journalists such as this. The attacks that international journalists can encounter range from murder, abductions, harassment, intimidation, illegal arrest, and arbitrary detention. In 2017 travel and tourism contributed to $2.6 trillion dollars and nearly 119 million jobs world wide. That accounts for roughly 10.4% of the global GDP. 22.5% of the travel for business and 77.5% was for leisure.
Issues to be addressed in a Resolution:
1. What protections can be given to international travelers?
2. Whose job is it to protect international travelers?
3. What can be done to discourage attacks on international travelers?
4. Where would funding come from to help protect international travelers?

Resources
Benefits of International Travel
https://www.sais.edu.sg/blog/benefits-traveling-internationally-through-camps-and-field-trips/

Proven Health Benefits of Travel
https://www.nbcnews.com/better/wellness/5-scientifically-proven-health-benefits-traveling-abroad-n759631

Journalist Safety
https://en.unesco.org/themes/safety-journalists

Director General Condemns Terror Attack: Somalia Claimed Numerous Lives Including Journalist

Journalism on the Ground: Risks and Importance of International Reporting
https://cpj.org/events/2014/10/journalism-on-the-ground-the-risks-and-importance-of-international-reporting.php

UN Plan on Safety for Journalists