

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE



2018 TOPICS

Maternal and Child Health
Civilian Impact of Weaponized Drone Strikes

2019 TOPIC: MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

Why this is important?

The health of mothers and children is heavily interrelated and affects many aspects of life. Maternal health can be defined as the mother's health through pregnancy, childbirth and the postpartum period. Almost all maternal and child deaths occur in less developed countries, especially concentrated in Africa. Although attention to maternal and child health has been growing, there are still plenty of mothers and children under age five that have died. Improving maternal and child health is seen as critical to fostering economic development. The largest barriers that prevent exceptional health during this time of pregnancy and early childhood are a lack of funding and limited access to services and medical professionals.

Topic Summary and Background:

Each year, as estimated 5.6 million children under the age of five die from largely preventable or treatable causes. In addition to these children, 303,000 women die during pregnancy and childbirth each year, and millions more experience severe adverse consequences. Key interventions that decrease the risk of maternal and child mortality include skilled birth care, immunizations, and insecticide-treated mosquito nets. These are just some of the solutions that have shown to contribute significantly in the life saving efforts for mothers and children. The Sustainable Development Goals that were adopted in 2015 also include global maternal and child health targets including SDGs 2 and 3 to reduce MMR and end preventable deaths of newborns and children under five as well as ending all forms of malnutrition.

Issues to be addressed in a Resolution:

1. How can member nations provide better access to and quality of medical personnel and supplies for mothers and children?
2. How can the United Nations better partner with member nations to provide the maximum amount of support for their futures?
3. What global health programs currently exist that can be expanded upon or revamped to further ensure the safety and quality of care?
4. What can individual community members do to ensure their own health?

Resources

Africa Infant Mortality

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/25/health/africa-infant-mortality-antibiotic.html>

Maternal and Child Health

<https://www.cfhi.org/maternal-child-health>

Health Minister to Attend Global Summit on Maternal Child Healthcare

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/140438/Health-min-to-attend-Global-Summit-on-Maternal-Child-Healthcare>

U.S Government and Global Maternal and Child Health

<https://www.kff.org/global-health-policy/fact-sheet/the-u-s-government-and-global-maternal-and-child-health/>

2019 TOPIC: CIVILIAN IMPACT OF WEAPONIZED DRONE STRIKES

Why this is important?

Drones take the human element out of the cockpit of traditional military aircraft. Just as they take the human out of the cockpit, they also remove human judgement and emotion from the cockpit as well as drones are used for a much more precise purpose. There have been issues in the past 20 years of increased risks in civilian safety with the use of pre-programmed drones carrying out strikes on military targets. Drones have risen in popularity during the increased unrest in the middle east since 2001. With the rise in use and functionality of such drones, there has also been an increase in intentional and unintentional civilian death and injury. Approximately 3% of deaths caused by drone strikes in Yemen alone are civilians. By year's end in 2015, it was estimated that the United States had amassed 6,000 civilian casualties in drone strikes in the Middle East. The injury of civilians is inexcusable and cannot be ignored.

Topic Summary and Background:

Japan, during the Second World War, famously utilized their Kamikaze air attack technique. Kamikaze was a tactic that involves intentionally flying aircraft into targets as a means of inflicting massive damage upon that target. Since the dawn of manned flight in the early 20th Century, pilot safety has been a primary concern and point of constant revision by those in the aviation industry. Through the course of aircraft warfare in the past 100 years, the use of aircraft has resulted in thousands of pilot deaths and injuries. Completely removing the pilot from the plane would remove any and all risk of the pilot being injured in flight. Thus, the drone came about. Similar to any remote controlled airplane available as a child's toy, the drone is a much larger, unmanned aircraft that militaries around the world have used in place of manned aircraft missions to protect pilots and aircraft alike.

Issues to be addressed in a Resolution:

1. What protections can be given to civilians in warzones?
 - a. Whose job is it to protect civilians in warzones?
2. Is it ethical to use unmanned military equipment?
3. Who is responsible for civilian casualties committed by unmanned military equipment?
4. Does military equipment have to be manned in order to be used?

Resources

General Information About Drones

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unmanned_combat_aerial_vehicle

In Defense of Drone Strikes

<https://www.brookings.edu/articles/why-drones-work-the-case-for-washingtons-weapon-of-choice/>

Civilian Casualties and Drones

<https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-military/2018/11/14/hidden-toll-of-us-drone-strikes-in-yemen-nearly-a-third-of-deaths-are-civilians-not-al-qaida/>

Geneva Convention Protocols

https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/geneva_conventions