



**MUNNY**  
MODEL UNITED NATIONS OF NYBORG

**Forum:** 1<sup>st</sup> Committee on Disarmament and International Security  
**Issue:** Establishing international guidelines on environmentally friendly warfare  
**Chair:** Tereza N. B. Andersen  
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#### Description of the issue:

This report will be using article 35 paragraph 3 from the Convention on the Prohibition of Military or any Hostile use of Environmental Modification Techniques, later referred to as the ENMOD convention, which discussed by the Committee on Disarmament and International Security, and was approved by the United Nations General Assembly on December 10<sup>th</sup> 1976<sup>1</sup>, as the definition of environmental warfare. All member states should be concerned and aware of the effects that environmental warfare has not only internally on the countries in conflict, but as well as externally on the rest of the world. As environmental warfare can have long lasting effects on all member states, it should be in their common interest to establish international guidelines on this matter.

As countries in conflict may not agree with each other, or the guidelines, international discussion will occur. Unfriendly and hostile discussion will slow down the discussion and can hinder the passing of the resolution.

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<sup>1</sup> (Advisory service on international humanitarian law, 2003)



### Background information:

Since the early ages, violence has been one of the most used way for us humans to achieve a wanted outcome. As our knowledge on technological development continues to grow and modernise, so does the development of the weaponry used in war and conflicts. After World War II, the production of weapons of mass destruction started to increase<sup>2</sup>. Weaponry like these results in widespread effects and severe and long-lasting effects, leaving the countries with extreme damages and negative financial impact.

### Climate issues:

Through the use of large vehicles, such as tanks, and cross fires damages to the physical landscape, territory, and infrastructure are occurring, effecting the countries widespread. The intensity of war and conflicts can vary, however no matter what, they will still require large amounts of fuel and energy through the forms of transport, weapons and so on, leading to the emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases.

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<sup>2</sup> (Chemical Weapons – UNODA, 2021)

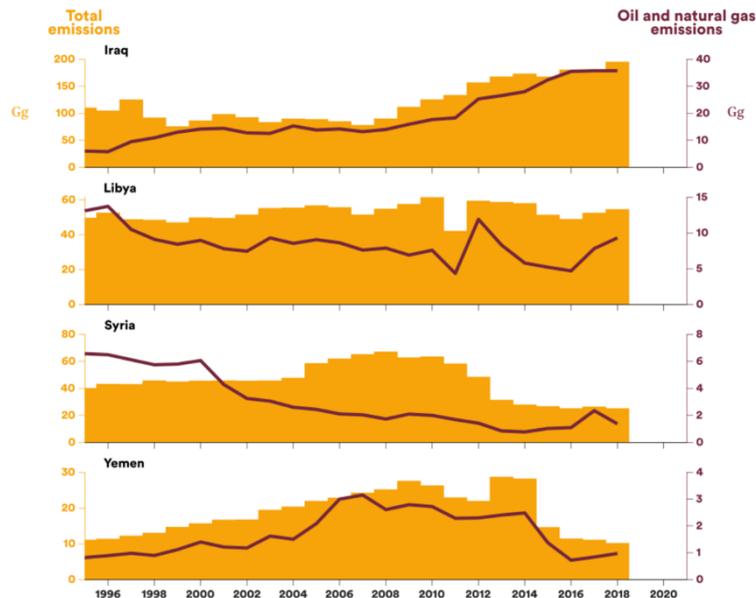


Figure 1: Trends of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in four different countries affected by conflict.

The waste from explosive weapons can both immediately and over time pollute the air and the soil, this can have long lasting effects for the agriculture affecting the biodiversity, the ecosystems and the health of the population. Severe pollution incidents affecting the infrastructural sectors, such as water system, pumping systems, energy and fuels supplies, can often be the cause of deliberative attacks on industrial facilities. Attacks like these are often just as powerful, if not more, as guns and other firearms, as they pollute large areas and have long lasting effects. If attacks like these were done to the agriculture of a country, it could essentially pollute the soils and water, contaminating the food and water which would highly affect those country who are dependent on marine life.<sup>3</sup>

### Human health issues:

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<sup>3</sup> ("How Does War Damage The Environment? - CEOBS" 2021)



The effects of environmental warfare can also be seen through the consequences of the climate risk on human health. The effects of the climate risks can lead to an increase of dangerous diseases such as cancer, heart diseases, and asthma. The contamination of water causes unsafe drinking water, poor sanitation and hygiene resulting in diseases easily being spread among the population. The pollution of agriculture will lead to a decrease in usable crops, this will lead to starvation of the population. All of these factors mentioned above will essentially increase the mortality rate of the country.<sup>4</sup>

Organizations such as the ICRC, have placed both volunteers and professionals in countries where conflicts are happening, in order to take care of civilians, injured soldiers, medical aid and protecting the natural environment. They do this while following the rules of the International Humanitarian Law and the measure from the Geneva Conventions.<sup>5</sup>

#### Economic issues:

As mentioned above, environmental warfare has an effect on the health of the population. If the health of the population is affected then this will essentially decrease the quality and the quantity of the labor force, which will decrease the quality and quantity of the products and goods produced. If the infrastructure is affected by environmental warfare, it can lead to physical damages that the country would have to invest money and resources in. This will lead to high government spending, resulting in the government having less money to spend in other areas, for example the health sector.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> ("Environment, Ethics, And Human Health" 2021)

<sup>5</sup> ("Guidelines On Protection Of Natural Environment In Armed Conflict" 2021)

<sup>6</sup> (Blink & Dorton 2011)



### Key terms:

Weapons of mass destruction (WMD) - Nuclear, biological or chemical weapons that can cause death and destruction at a large scale.

Biodiversity - The variety of plant and animal life in the world of a particular habitat.

Ecosystems - The community of interacting organism and their environment.

Infrastructure sectors - Vital fundamental facilities and systems of country , system or organization.

Mortality rate - Number of deaths in a given area of in a particular population.

### Major actors:

ICRC - International Committee of the Red Cross

UNTSO - United Nations Truce Supervision Organization

### Relevant sources:

The Convention on the Prohibition of Military or any Hostile use of Environmental Modification Techniques - 2003. *Advisory service on international humanitarian law*. [PDF] International Committee of the Red Cross. Available at:

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