

HMDC Presents... DISEC: Review Quiz

HMDC Presents... Review Quiz: DISEC: Drone Surveillance and Privacy

We take this quiz after we finish reading the DISEC research report, without looking back at it. When we are done, we check our answers in the Answer Key at the end. For every question we missed, we go back and reread the report section named in the key, so the idea stays with us when we speak in committee.

PART 1, THE TOPIC

1. Why does the report say that almost every drone is a surveillance tool?

- A. Almost every drone carries a weapon.
- B. Almost every drone carries cameras or other sensors.
- C. Almost every drone is owned by a government.
- D. Almost every drone can fly more than 1,000 km.

2. What did the UN Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine find about drones in Kherson Province?

- A. Drones were used mainly to deliver food and medicine to civilians along the river.
- B. The Commission could not find any drone use because it lacked access to the area.
- C. Russian forces used live video from drone cameras to pick out civilian targets and then dropped explosives on them, which the Commission called the crime against humanity of murder.
- D. Drones were used only to find missing people after floods on the Dnipro River.

3. What did the Brookings Institution argue drone laws should focus on?

- A. The harm, which is constant surveillance, rather than the technology, which is the drone itself.
- B. Only drones that weigh more than 250 grams, because small drones cannot carry cameras.
- C. Only military drones, because police drones never collect personal data.
- D. The price of drones, because cheaper drones should be banned first.

4. Which of these is a disadvantage of Major Solution 2 (registration, identification and no-fly zones)?

- A. It stops search and rescue teams from using drones at all.
- B. It has never worked anywhere, even at a regional level.
- C. It requires every UN member state to sign a new treaty first.
- D. It mainly covers civilian drones, not military or police drones.

5. The EU Artificial Intelligence Act limits live face scanning by police. Why is it still a weak model for the exact area DISEC covers?

- A. It bans all face scanning by police with no exceptions, so no state will copy it.

- B. It excludes AI systems used for military, defence or national security purposes.
- C. It applies only to toy drones under 250 grams.
- D. It was rejected by the European Union before it took effect.

6. Why does the report say export controls through the Wassenaar Arrangement cannot solve the problem alone?

- A. The Wassenaar Arrangement bans all drone sales everywhere in the world.
 - B. The Wassenaar Arrangement is run by the Security Council, so any permanent member can veto it.
 - C. Only 42 states take part, each applies the controls through its own national law, and producers outside the group are not bound.
 - D. The Wassenaar Arrangement covers only toy drones and not military aircraft.
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PART 2, THE UNITED NATIONS

1. Which resolution started the UN's work on the right to privacy in the digital age?

- A. A/RES/79/175, adopted by the General Assembly in 2024.
- B. A/HRC/RES/25/22, adopted by the Human Rights Council in 2014.
- C. S/RES/2370, adopted by the Security Council in 2017.
- D. A/RES/68/167, adopted by the General Assembly in 2013.

2. Why is Human Rights Council resolution A/HRC/RES/50/21 (2022) especially useful to delegates?

- A. It is one of the few UN texts that names "aerial surveillance vehicles" as a concern at peaceful protests.
- B. It creates a binding treaty that bans all police drones.
- C. It is the first resolution on lethal autonomous weapons systems.
- D. It authorises UN peacekeepers to use drones in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

3. What happened with Human Rights Council resolution A/HRC/RES/25/22 (2014) on armed drones?

- A. Every member of the Council voted for it, including all major drone users.
- B. It was blocked by a Security Council veto and never adopted.
- C. It called for transparency and independent investigations and passed 27 to 6, but France, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom and the United States voted against it.
- D. It banned armed drones in all counterterrorism operations.

4. Which resolution shows that the UN itself uses surveillance drones?

- A. A/RES/78/241 (2023), which asked the Secretary-General to collect state views.
- B. S/RES/2098 (2013), which authorised the UN mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to use unmanned aerial systems to monitor arms moving across the border.
- C. A/RES/68/167 (2013), which began the privacy in the digital age agenda.
- D. S/RES/2617 (2021), which asked counterterrorism experts to raise awareness of terrorist drones.

5. Which statement correctly describes General Assembly resolution A/RES/80/57 (2025) on lethal autonomous weapons?

- A. It called on states to complete a set of elements for an instrument "with a view to future negotiations" and passed 164 to 6, with the United States and Russia among those voting against.
- B. It created a finished, binding treaty that bans all autonomous weapons immediately.
- C. It passed without a vote because every state agreed, including Russia and the United States.
- D. It moved all work on autonomous weapons out of Geneva and into the Security Council.

PART 3, INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS

1. What gap does the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence leave open?

- A. It applies only to European states, so no other country can sign it.
- B. It does not apply to national defence, and parties need not apply it to national security activities.
- C. It protects human rights only for drones, not for other AI systems.
- D. The United States and the European Union refused to sign it.

2. According to the report, what is the main limit of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) on this topic?

- A. ICAO has no connection to the United Nations.
- B. ICAO has never written any rules about drones.
- C. ICAO bans all drones from shared airspace.
- D. ICAO focuses on safety and security in the air, not on privacy.

3. Why does the report say the Missile Technology Control Regime does not solve the drone surveillance problem?

- A. It controls unmanned systems able to deliver weapons of mass destruction, so it is about weapons delivery, and small surveillance drones generally fall outside it.
- B. It has only three members and meets once every ten years.
- C. It covers only small camera drones and ignores large drones.
- D. It was closed down in 2023 when Brazil left.

4. Only 40 of 85 states endorsed the outcome of the 2026 REAIM summit on military AI, and neither the United States nor China endorsed it. What does the report say this suggests?

- A. Military AI no longer worries any government.
- B. The REAIM summit has replaced the United Nations as the main forum.
- C. Voluntary pledges outside the UN are losing support, so the UN, where almost every state takes part, matters more for rules on AI drones.
- D. All future rules on AI drones must come from China and the United States alone.

THINK LIKE A DELEGATE

There is no single correct answer to these questions. A strong answer takes a clear position, explains why, and supports it with facts from the report.

- 1. Should DISEC treat surveillance drones and armed drones as one issue or as two separate issues? Explain what we would argue and why.**
 - 2. Our country wants to stop terrorist drones, but other delegates worry that counter-drone tools will be used to watch ordinary citizens. What would we propose so that both concerns are met?**
 - 3. The Secretary-General and the ICRC asked for a treaty on autonomous weapons by 2026, but the United States and Russia voted against the 2025 resolution and China supports only a narrow ban. Should DISEC push to start treaty negotiations now? Explain how we would win support.**
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ANSWER KEY

PART 1, THE TOPIC

1. **B:** Almost all drones carry cameras or other sensors, so almost every drone can watch people whether or not it carries a weapon (Introduction: Understanding the Topic).
2. **C:** The Commission found drone video was used to pick out visibly civilian targets in Kherson, killing nearly 150 civilians, and called it the crime against humanity of murder (Part 1, 1A, OHCHR, May 28, 2025).
3. **A:** Brookings said early laws focused on the technology (drones) instead of the harm (constant surveillance). The report adds that drone-only rules let governments switch to helicopters, satellites or fixed cameras (Part 1, 1B, Brookings Institution, November 2014).
4. **D:** Registration and no-fly zones mainly cover civilian drones, not military or police ones (Part 1, 1C, the solution's disadvantages).
5. **B:** The AI Act says systems used for military, defence or national security purposes are outside its scope, which is exactly the area DISEC covers (Part 1, 1D, EUR-Lex, June 13, 2024).
6. **C:** Only 42 states take part, controls are applied nationally, and producers outside the group are not bound (Part 1, 1E, Wassenaar Arrangement).

PART 2, THE UNITED NATIONS

1. **D:** A/RES/68/167 in 2013 was the General Assembly's first resolution on the right to privacy in the digital age (Part 2, 2A, Table of UN Resolutions and Instruments; 2B).
2. **A:** It is one of the few UN texts that names surveillance from the air, so delegates can quote it as agreed language (Part 2, 2C, A/HRC/RES/50/21).
3. **C:** It passed 27 to 6 with 14 abstentions, and five major drone users voted against it (Part 2, 2D, A/HRC/RES/25/22).
4. **B:** S/RES/2098 directed the UN mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to use unmanned aerial systems for surveillance (Part 2, 2E).
5. **A:** It called for elements "with a view to future negotiations" and passed 164 to 6 with 7 abstentions, with the United States and Russia voting against (Part 2, 2A, Table of UN Resolutions and Instruments; 2G).

PART 3, INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS

1. **B:** The treaty does not apply to national defence, and parties need not apply it to national security, leaving military uses aside (Part 3, 3A, Council of Europe).
2. **D:** ICAO works on safety and security in shared airspace, not privacy (Part 3, 3C, ICAO).
3. **A:** The regime is about stopping the spread of systems that can carry weapons of mass destruction, so small surveillance drones generally fall outside it (Part 3, 3B, Missile Technology Control Regime).
4. **C:** Support for the REAIM pledges fell from more than 60 states in 2024 to 40 in 2026, so the report argues the UN is now the more important forum (Part 3, 3E, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies).

THINK LIKE A DELEGATE: WHAT A STRONG ANSWER INCLUDES

1. **Surveillance and armed drones:** A strong answer takes a side and uses the report's evidence that the camera has become the targeting system. It may cite the Kherson findings (Part 1, 1A, OHCHR, May 28, 2025), the use of surveillance metadata to aim strikes (Part 1, 1A, A/HRC/27/37), and the ICRC's proposed ban on autonomous weapons used against people (Part 1, 1G). A delegate who argues for two separate issues should explain why that would make agreement easier, for example by starting with the most dangerous systems (Part 1, 1A, Carnegie, January 22, 2026).
2. **Terrorist drones and privacy:** A strong answer accepts the real threat, citing S/RES/2370 and S/RES/2617 (Part 2, 2F) or the Gulf states' position (Part 2, 2I). It then names the gap the Special Rapporteur found in the Delhi Declaration, which ignores state abuse (Part 2, 2F), and proposes privacy safeguards for counter-drone systems (Part 1, 1H; Part 3, 3C and 3E), such as limits on time, place and data storage (Part 1, 1B).
3. **The 2026 treaty deadline:** A strong answer uses the large majority of 164 votes (Part 2, 2G), the Geneva elements agreed in September 2026 and the November 2026 Review Conference (Part 2, 2G; Part 3, 3E), and the two-tier approach of banning the worst systems and regulating the rest (Part 2, 2G, United Nations News, May 14, 2025). It explains how to win over the United States, Russia or China, for example with exact definitions, since China's narrow definition shows that "human control" can mean very different things (Part 3, 3E, Lieber Institute). It may also point out that every state has one vote in the General Assembly (Part 3, 3E, Africa Renewal).