

Overview

Model Diplomacy is a free classroom simulation of either the U.S. National Security Council (NSC) or the UN Security Council that takes place both online and in the classroom in a blended learning environment. It presents hypothetical situations based on real issues of the past and present. It has several cases that include a cybersecurity angle.

Materials

[The Model Diplomacy Website](#)

Instructional Plan

Model Diplomacy cases that include a cybersecurity angle include

- **Cyber Clash With China**
Cyberspace is a new domain of conflict that has few accepted standards of behavior. In recent years, China has exerted authority over areas of the South China Sea also claimed by other Asian countries, leading to tension with the United States. A few days ago, following several incidents in both cyberspace and the South China Sea itself, the Nasdaq stock market was hacked, which significantly harmed the U.S. economy. U.S. intelligence agencies believe some in the Chinese government knew about the attack, for which a Chinese hacker collective claimed credit. National Security Council members need to advise the president on the merits of a cyber response, economic sanctions, or military measures.
- **North Korean Nuclear Threat**
Following a North Korean satellite launch and other developments, the director of national intelligence has informed the president that North Korea is now capable of firing a nuclear-armed missile against the United States. The president has called an NSC meeting to discuss how to respond to North Korea's enhanced capabilities.
- **Iran Deal Breach**
This case is set in January 2017. Iran's nuclear program, alongside its broader threats to security in the Middle East, has long troubled the United States and its allies. In 2015, the United States, Iran, and five other countries reached a landmark agreement that offers Iran relief

Model Diplomacy Simulations: Cyberspace and Cybersecurity

from international sanctions in exchange for vigorous inspections and restraints on its nuclear program. Israel has now accused Iran of violating the accord by operating a clandestine nuclear enrichment facility, prompting a diplomatic stalemate over access to the disputed site. National Security Council (NSC) members need to advise the president on how best to respond.