

United Nations General Assembly

Alexmun 2026, April 17, 18



Topics

Topic A: The Role of Technology in National Security: The Implications of the TikTok Ban in the U.S

Topic B: The Global Impact of US Reciprocal Tariffs in 2025: Consequences for International Trade and Vulnerable Economies.

President: Robert Graves Ostos

Moderator: Oscar Bermúdez Hernández, Ximena Sánchez

Conference Officer: Constanza Lobato

Introduction to the chairs

Welcome delegates, my name is Robert Graves and I will be your president of the UN office General Assembly. This year we will be addressing recent conflicts regarding The Global Impact of US Reciprocal Tariffs, its Consequences for International Trade and the repercussions on Vulnerable Economies. If you have any doubts about anything, you can contact me via email; Robert.graves@bab.edu.mx

Hi delegates, my name is Oscar Bermúdez Hernández and I will be serving as your moderator in the committee of the UN General Assembly. If you have any issue regarding the topics we will, or anything else, you can contact me via email: oscar.bermudez@bab.edu.mx

Hi delegates, my name is Ximena Sánchez and I will be serving as your moderator in the committee of the UN General Assembly. If you have any issue regarding the topics we will, or anything else, you can contact me via email; ximena.sanchez@bab.edu.mx

Hello, my name is Constanza Lobato and I will be your conference officer in the UN committee look forward in working with all of you, so if you have any questions feel free to contact me via email; constanza.lobato@bab.edu.mx

Introduction to the committee

- The United Nations General Assembly was established in 1945 under the Charter of the United Nation, it being one of the six principal organs of the UN. Its first session was established on January 10th, 1946, in London. The 51 founding Member States were convened to the session. Today the size of the assembly has grown to all 193 Members of the United Nations, each having the same power of vote regardless of their size or power.

The UNGA plays a crucial role in the diplomacy between countries, serving as the main policymaking, and representative organ of the UN. Its objective is to provide a unique forum for discussion touching the international issues covered by the UN Charter, for example development, peace and security, international laws, and human rights.

- The General Assembly has several main functions:
 - To deliberate and make recommendations for international peace and security, except where the Security Council is exercising its functions.
 - To approve UN's budget and decide the financial contributions of each Member State
 - To elect non-permanent members of the Security Council, and other principal organs, and to appoint the Secretary-General from the recommendation of the Security Council
 - To promote international cooperation in political, economical, social, cultural, educational and health fields.
- The work of the General Assembly is organized into six main committees:
 1. The First Committee (Disarmament and International Security)
 2. The Second Committee (Economic and Financial)
 3. The Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural)
 4. The Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization)

5. The Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary)

6. The Sixth Committee (Legal)

During the past United Nations General Assembly's, several programs and initiatives have been proposed to address the repercussions of U.S. tariffs in 2025. The General Assembly strengthened cooperation ties with the Second Committee, (Economic and Financial) to see the impacts for a sustainable development, as well as the The Role of Technology in National Security and The Implications of the TikTok Ban in the U.S.

Topic Overview

Topic A: The Role of Technology in National Security: The Implications of the TikTok Ban in the U.S

- The TikTok ban in the U.S created several tensions between national security and digital freedom in the U.S. American lawmakers argue that TikTok, owned by the Chinese company named ByteDance, shows a significant national security risk on users' data since Chinese Government officials could access sensitive user data, and spread misinformation that could influence opinions. On the other side of the board, critics of U.S. citizens claim that this new ban could threaten their freedom of speech, and economic disadvantages. This issue reflects a broader issue of how nations can protect their citizens against foreign government influences without undermining democratic values.

In today's connected world, lots of technology companies hold incredible amounts of personal data, giving them easier access to influence users and societies. The U.S. government's push to ban TikTok reflects a perfect example of the growing fear of governments of users' data collected by foreign owned apps, that could be exploited for espionage or political manipulations. Meanwhile, the platform's increasing popularity makes the issue much more complex, as many young entrepreneurs rely on it for entertainment, news, and income. This creates a much bigger conflict between ensuring national security and preserving freedom, making policymakers reconsider how global tech platforms need to be regulated without isolating the U.S. from the digital economy without limiting free expression.

Technology has always played a crucial role in national security, from weapons development to the nation's cyber capabilities. The potential U.S. ban on TikTok creates modern concerns, Tik Tok, an app owned by the Chinese company ByteDance, could collect sensitive data and pose risks of foreign influence. Historically, the U.S. has restricted access to technologies. The TikTok case continues this pattern, by showing us that technology is both a tool and a potential threat, by requiring careful regulation to protect national security while balancing

innovation and connectivity.

Relevant international action

- The U.S. ban triggered various international responses, including intersection of national security, digital governance, and trade. As a response the United States took various diplomatic actions including negotiating with China, resulting in an agreement that preserved U.S. national security interests while allowing TikTok to continue operating in the U.S. with certain restrictions. Several other countries followed the U.S. with their own measures, including Canada and Australia banning TikTok on government devices, and the European Union expanded its ban to all official devices. These actions perfectly reflect growing global concerns over data privacy, and potential influences from other countries from social media platforms.

At the same time various international organizations and civil societies acted in various ways to make broader implications of the ban. The United Nations and other international groups like Amnesty International have raised concerns of the precedent of digital censorship and impact on freedom of expression. Also financial and technical programs led by other organizations such as the IMF and World Bank, are also being explored to help countries adapt in digital economies and content creation markets. Together, these international responses help balance between safeguarding national security and maintaining global digital connection.

In conclusion, the ban of tik tok in the U.S highlights the balance between protecting national security and preserving digital freedom. While the government is looking to prevent the potential data and foreign influence, the ban also raises concerns about censorship and economic impact. All of these countries are “connected” beaches; they all have a worry about security, privacy, and online content. Some countries like the U.S. and countries in Europe are afraid that TikTok could let the Chinese government see the users data (the data of the people that use the app). Others like Afghanistan or Pakistan banned it for moral or cultural reasons. In general, all these countries want to protect their people and control how foreign apps affect them.

Topic B: The Global Impact of US Reciprocal Tariffs in 2025: Consequences for International Trade and Vulnerable Economies.

- In 2025, the implementation of reciprocal tariffs by the United States has had a significant impact on global trade. These measures, introduced in response to trade barriers imposed by other major economies, aim to protect industries and jobs. However, they have increased import costs and reduced the flow of goods across the border, disrupting global supply chains and “growing” the market uncertainty.

Recent legislation in the House of Representatives highlights the discussion of national security risks from the use of TikTok have identified three potential sources of danger. The first is that TikTok is part of a nefarious Chinese government influence operation designed to sway U.S. politics. The second is that TikTok can be used to collect personal data on Americans. The third is that voluntarily downloading TikTok onto phones or devices allows for the injection of malicious software by China. Only the third source creates serious risk.

This new trade policy creates two different kinds of tariffs:

1. A general (or base) tariff, and
2. A reciprocal tariff, which depends on the US trade deficit with each country.

The base tariff, set at 10%, applies to *all imports* except those from Canada and Mexico, starting on April 5th. For example, if men’s cotton shorts had an original tariff of 8.9%, they will now face 18.9% (the MFN tariff plus the new 10%). Even countries that already have free trade agreements with the US will have to pay this base tariff.

The reciprocal tariff, which started on April 9th, adds another layer. It targets countries listed in *Annex I* of the executive order and is supposed to “compensate” the US for its trade deficit with each nation. However, most economists have criticized the unclear and inconsistent way these tariffs were calculated. The idea assumes that if the US has a trade deficit with a country, it must be because that country’s policies are unfair ignoring other real causes like currency exchange, production costs, or domestic taxes. According to this logic, the US is “balancing things out” by adding extra duties roughly equal to *half of the supposed damage*.

These reciprocal tariffs are added on top of all existing ones, making total costs for imports rise sharply. The new tariffs hit Asian countries particularly hard, since their economies rely heavily on labor-intensive industries such as textiles and footwear. For instance, Bangladesh, which exports large amounts of clothing to the US, will now face an additional 37% tariff meaning a total duty of 45.9% for goods like men's cotton shorts. This situation not only disrupts trade between the US and these countries but also puts huge pressure on developing economies that depend on exports. The policy, instead of protecting American workers, risks damaging global supply chains and creating more instability in the international market.

Suggested Tools for Further Research, Documents of Significance, and Guiding Questions

Topic A timeline:

- 2019 when the U.S. raised concerns about data privacy, and potential Chinese government access to user information.
- 2020 Trump's administration issued an executive order seeking the ban of the app unless it was sold to a U.S. based company, at first these orders faced legal challenges and were later thrown away.
- 2023-2024 as national security reviews intensified the U.S. Supreme Court made an upholding of a nationwide ban.
- January 17th, 2025 U.S. nationwide ban.
- Following this decision diplomatic negotiations between the U.S. and China produced an agreement in Madrid to allow limited continued operations, while other countries imposed their own restrictions on TikTok.

Delegations position for Topic A

1. United States: Proposed and debated national bans over security concerns.
2. China: Home country of TikTok's parent company, ByteDance.
3. India: Fully banned TikTok in 2020, citing national security and data privacy issues.
4. Canada: Banned TikTok on government devices due to privacy risks.
5. United Kingdom: Restricted TikTok use on official government devices.
6. Australia: Also banned TikTok on government devices.
7. New Zealand: Banned TikTok from parliamentary network devices.
8. France: Restricted TikTok use on government employees' phones.
9. Belgium: Imposed a temporary ban on TikTok for government devices.
10. Denmark: Restricted TikTok use for government officials.
11. Norway: Recommended not using TikTok on work phones for government

employees. 12. European Union (EU): Banned TikTok on devices used by EU Commission staff.

13. Taiwan: Banned TikTok on public sector devices, calling it a security risk. 14.

Afghanistan: Completely banned TikTok, saying it spread “immoral content.” 15.

Pakistan: Temporarily banned TikTok several times for “inappropriate content.” 16.

Indonesia: Temporarily banned TikTok in the past for similar reasons.

Bibliography

y

American University School of International Service. (2025, enero 23). National Security and the TikTok Ban. Recuperado de <https://www.american.edu/sis/news/20250123-national-security-and-the-tik-tok-ban.cfm>

Brookings Institution. (2025, octubre 2). TikTok may not be Chinese-owned anymore, but there still is a privacy problem. Recuperado de <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/tiktok-may-not-be-chinese-owned-anymore-but-there-still-is-a-privacy-problem/>

Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). (2024, marzo 13). TikTok and National Security. Recuperado de <https://www.csis.org/analysis/tiktok-and-national-security>

“US implements sweeping reciprocal tariffs, igniting global economic challenges” — Overseas Development Institute (ODI) (April 2025)

Link: [odi.org – US implements sweeping reciprocal tariffs ODI: Think change](https://odi.org/en/articles/us-implements-sweeping-reciprocal-tariffs-odi-think-change) This article describes the U.S. announcement of a major shift in tariff policy on 2 April 2025 and discusses the worldwide reaction.