**Position:** United Nations Representative

**Institution:** Department of State

**Faction:** Diplomatic

**Historical Reference:** Susan Rice

You are 44 years of age and highly educated. You attended the prestigious National Cathedral School and graduated as valedictorian. You went on to graduate from Stanford University in 1986. After undergraduate school, you received a Rhodes scholarship to attend the University of Oxford. You studied international relations and received a master’s degree in 1988 and a Ph.D. in 1990. In 1993, you joined the National Security Council to work for President Bill Clinton. Your focus was on international organizations and global peacekeeping initiatives. During the Rwandan Genocide, you advocated for the position that the United States should not get involved. This became one of your greatest regrets, and now believe that American leadership is vital to maintain global peace and security.

You are the new Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations. You lead the US’ delegation into a trying era of international diplomacy. President Barack Obama has just taken over a long and costly war that has put the US at odds with many countries around the world, including some US allies. Broadly your goal is to rebuild America’s global reputation as a reliable partner in managing international prosperity and security. Rebuilding America’s reputation is imperative to accomplish any US foreign policy goals.

**Faction Advisory**

The US United Nations Delegation is part of the State Department. Your mission is to pursue US interests through the UN. As such, you share the core belief is that diplomatic action is always the first, best option to resolve tensions between countries. You oppose unilateral military action, except in extreme circumstances where the US, its allies, or the global community confronts an existential threat. While you work hand-in-glove with the State Department, you are more sensitive to the fact that rebuilding America’s global reputation, and its leadership role in the United Nations will require cooperation and, occasionally, compromise. For this reason, you oppose any unilateral action or policy that will be perceived by other governments as manipulative or secretive, as this would reinforce the belief that the US can no longer be trusted. Instead, you preferer a multilateral approach to problems, including cybersecurity. You understand that, while diplomacy may take some time, it is the only way to forge a real consensus between countries. You support economic sanctions if the purpose is to create political pressure and convince governments to negotiate in good faith. Sanctions designed solely for punishment do not advance diplomatic interests. Because the complexity of global cyber threats is increasing rapidly, you believe that unilateral action (including sanctions) will ultimately fail. other like-minded governments

**Assignment**

At an upcoming meeting, the President (instructor) will convene the National Security Council (NSC) and ask it to develop a National Security Strategy for Cyber Security. You need to ensure that the final document the NSC produces reflects your institution’s priorities (see objectives). Because the NSC contains representatives from institutions (or agencies) with vastly different perspectives, this will be no easy task. Government agencies fight hard for influence and resources (e.g., a budget). Not everyone can get what they want. Thus, your colleagues need to hear your ideas, but you also need to convince them that your priorities belong in a document that will not—indeed, *can not*—contain everything. Evidence-based arguments will serve you best here, and you can prepare in the following ways:

* Research your *institution*. What does your institution generally do day-to-day? What are its general interests? This puts you in the mindset of the institution.
* Research the current state of cyberspace (as of January 21, 2009; no later). What are its characteristics? What are its main opportunities and challenges? The instructor will provide you with access to a database of resources to get you started, but you should not confine yourself only to those resources. You may use any time appropriate research.
* Research your policy toward cyberspace. Given (i) and (ii) above, what do you think a national cyber policy needs to contain? What do you think it should avoid? What language should it use?

As the game unfolds, the instructor will distribute additional assignments. You will need to complete those assignments as they arise.

**Objectives**

Your mandate is broad, and there are many different ways that you can ensure that your goals are met. You will need to be both creative and direct in pursuing your agenda. At a minimum, you should seek to:

* Establish new global no ‘first use’ of cyber norm.
* Establish new international institutions and cooperation that address cyber threats under US leadership. Ideally, the goal is to design an institution that even US rivals - eg. China, Russia, etc. would accept.

You strongly oppose:

* Military or cyber-attacks as a policy in itself, or as a ‘first’ response to a crisis.
* Secrecy and hidden side-deals. Diplomacy happens in the open. The more information governments have, the better. The US and global community need to share information so that each government can identify and articulate its interests.

**Strategy Advice**

In the NSC, your natural allies include other members of the diplomatic corps, including the UN delegation. You may want to coordinate with them first. You may also find common ground on specific issues with several other factions. While no faction’s interests will entirely overlap with your own, you should seek allies whenever possible. This may include department heads responsible for the domestic economy, and representatives from trade delegations. You may also find that some factions approach the issue differently. For example, the military and intelligence agencies may believe that transparency is a national security risk and that direct unilateral action is more effective.

Finally, you note that the Bush Administration’s cybersecurity plan emphasized domestic security over a global approach. But the world has changed, and you need to convince all factions that cybersecurity is no longer a national-level issue that countries can address on their own. For the US to be secure domestically, it must lead internationally.

**A Cautionary Note**

The game begins on January 21, 2009. Many subsequent administrations, including the current one, likely have a cyberspace policy. Your institution may even currently have cyber-related policies. These, however, will not necessarily be the administration’s or institution’s *historical* position. You need to research with the game date(s) in mind. Any documents (or websites) after January 21, 2009, are not permissible.