

Forum: Security Council

Issue: Ensuring nuclear security and nonproliferation

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Position: Deputy President of the Security Council

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Good day to all delegates within the Security Council!

It is my pleasure to be the Deputy President of the Security Council. My MUN journey began in year 12; I can wholeheartedly say that this was one of the most enjoyable things I have participated in school. As such, I would like to heavily emphasise that you should proceed with your utmost effort and care when debating this topic.

In the beginning, I was engaged in the role of delegate of Afghanistan, this was alongside a group of friends. I was debating within the Special Political and Decolonisation Committee, here I discovered that the best tools at your disposal are: these study guides that we have provided for you, experienced delegates, and of course any of the chairs or secretariat! I implore all delegates to make use of these tools and ask many questions.

I hope everyone is excited about this topic, for I believe that this is one of the most interesting topics present in the current MUN. It is a shame that I cannot take part in this debate as a delegate as well, however, I am looking forward to seeing you all discuss it over the course of the two days.

Please send me an email if there are any issues or questions! 3449@queenelizabeths.kent.sch.uk

Elian Watts - Deputy President of the Security Council

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

Since the first nuclear weapons were created during the second world war, these weapons of mass destruction have been developed and threatened by several nations across the world. There have been some very notable conflicts regarding nuclear weapons, especially due to a lack of security surrounding countries who do not possess such weapons. This is why we have this idea of nonproliferation, which is the control of the spread and amount of nuclear weapons. The nonproliferation of nuclear and chemical weapons has been the UN's goal for many years, with many treaties and agreements being made to aid the control and possible disarmament of nuclear weapons. However, the nuclear-weapon states often disagree as it is not in their best interests to dismantle their weapons and disarm themselves.

KEY TERMS

Nuclear Weapon: A nuclear weapon is an explosive device that derives its destructive force from nuclear reactions, either fission or a combination of fission and fusion reactions, producing a nuclear explosion.

Nonproliferation: The prevention of an increase or spread of something, especially in the number of countries possessing nuclear weapons.

WMD: This stands for Weapons of Mass Destruction, which is a biological, chemical, radiological, nuclear, or any other weapon that can kill or significantly harm many people or cause great damage to artificial structures, natural structures, or the biosphere.

NWS: The nuclear-weapon states (NWS) are the five states recognized as possessing nuclear weapons by the NPT, which are China, US, Russian Federation, UK, and France.

NWFZ: A nuclear-weapon-free zone (NWFZ) is defined by the United Nations as an agreement that a group of states has freely established by treaty or convention that bans the development, manufacturing, control, possession, testing, stationing or transporting of nuclear weapons in a given area

IAEA: The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is an intergovernmental organisation that seeks to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy and to inhibit its use for any military purpose, including nuclear weapons.

Nuclear terrorism: Nuclear terrorism is a criminal offence committed by a person unlawfully and intentionally when he "uses in any way radioactive material intended to cause death or serious bodily injury." It may also be intended to cause significant damage to the environment. Forcing may also be to force a natural or legal person, an international organization or a state to perform or abstain from an act. The above are in accordance with the United Nations International Convention on the Suppression of Nuclear Terrorism Acts 2005

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Cold War

The cold war was a very hostile time which started due to differing political and ideological views between the United States and the Soviet Union. During the cold war, Both parties manufactured and deployed tens of thousands of tactical nuclear weapons, including artillery shells, anti aircraft missiles and anti tank rounds, despite none of these actually being used in combat. This is because neither country wanted to take the risk of unleashing an all-out nuclear war by employing tactical nuclear weapons.

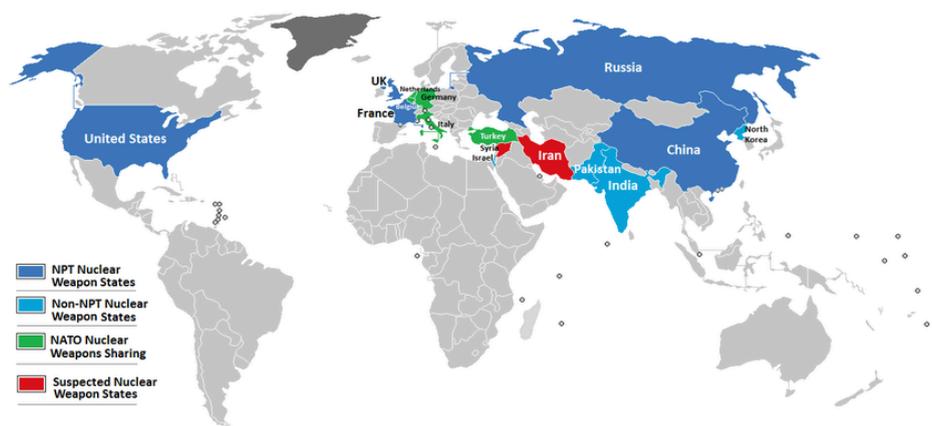
The highest point of tension in the cold war was the Cuban missile crisis, where the Soviet Union reached a secret agreement with Fidel Castro (former Cuban president) to place Soviet nuclear missiles in Cuba to threaten the United States, after they tried to overthrow Castro and the communist government within Cuba at the time.

Nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT)

The NPT was an agreement signed in 1968, pledging cooperation in stemming the spread of nuclear technology. It was signed by many major nuclear and non-nuclear powers, and was a success on the basis that it set a precedent for international cooperation between nuclear and non nuclear states to prevent proliferation.

After a Limited Test Ban Treaty was signed by the United States and the Soviet Union, they hoped a more comprehensive agreement would happen. This is because the deployment and development of new nuclear technology is expensive and time consuming, therefore both were interested in slowing the arms race and limiting competition in the development of weapons. After this treaty, the two sides began and signed an outer space treaty that prevented the deployment of nuclear weapon systems as satellites in space. Both US and Soviet negotiators also reached a settlement on concluding an international non-proliferation treaty.

Despite its successes, there are four non-members to the treaty that are believed to possess or be developing nuclear weapons. These are India, Pakistan, North Korea (who have openly declared they are testing nuclear weapons, and Israel. The Treaty is very closely monitored, so much so that it has a review conference every 5 years. Sessions of the preparatory committee for the review conferences also take place every year between the conferences.



The NPT contains 11 articles, and is interpreted to have three significant pillars, non-proliferation, disarmament, and the right to peacefully use nuclear technology. It was made to protect the security of both nuclear and non-nuclear countries, however its usefulness has been questioned as many protest that “the non-proliferation treaty was just a plot to maintain dominance of those who already had nuclear weapons”.

Although the NPT may have been liable for the slow progress that was noted in the fields of bilateral negotiations of Member States, it is generally accepted that it has been the main legal document that assures security and stability in its parties, the majority of which are developing or under developing countries. The greatest risk comes from countries that have not joined the NPT regime, as they remain uncontrolled, despite the fact that they are countries with existing (or not officially registered) nuclear programmes (India, Pakistan, Israel).

Operational Status of Nuclear Forces

The US and Russia continue to maintain about one thousand nuclear warheads in a status such that some can be launched within less than two minutes, others within 10 minutes. Both President Biden and President Putin are at all times shadowed by someone with a briefcase from which either president can - in theory anyway - order a nuclear strike.

De-alerting should be pursued within or in connection with US-Russian nuclear arms reduction negotiations, and also should be a topic for wider consideration by states with nuclear arsenals. Care should be taken in implementing de-alerting measures to guard against worsening crisis stability problems. Urgent work is needed to reduce the risks of accidental or mistaken launch, which is feasible short of more ambitious steps like demating warheads from missiles.

The Role of the General Assembly in Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation

Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation is not only important to the United Nations Security Council, but also to the General Assembly First Committee on Disarmament and International Security, especially in regards to Art. 11 of the United Nations Charter. This article allows it to discuss all topics within the limitations of the Charter that are also discussed in other UN bodies and to make recommendations to the Security Council.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

IAEA

The IAEA stands for the international atomic energy agency. The main goals are to facilitate peaceful uses of nuclear energy and ensuring assistance is not used for military purposes. To further the goal of non-proliferation as a confidence-building and assurance measure between Nation parties, the NPT established a safeguards system under the responsibility of the IAEA.

North Korea

North Korea originally signed and joined the NPT in 1985. However, in 2003 they withdrew themselves from the treaty. This is due to them openly testing and declaring they have nuclear weapons, therefore meaning they violated the terms of the NPT.

Iran

Iran is in the NPT, but was found in non-compliance with its NPT safeguards agreement, and its nuclear programme is still in dispute. In 2003, the IAEA reported that Iran had repeatedly failed to meet safeguarding obligations, mostly by failing to declare its uranium enrichment plant. Iran disputes this and states that it has a legal right to enrich uranium for peaceful purposes under the NPT, and argues that it complies with the NPT. Iran also states that its enrichment program is part of its civilian nuclear energy program which complies with the NPT.

Israel

Israel has never signed the NPT, and it is widely believed that the country possesses nuclear weapons. However, Israel does not acknowledge them. In 2009 the General Conference of the IAEA called upon Israel to open its nuclear facilities to IAEA inspection to adhere to the non-proliferation treaty as part of a resolution on Israeli nuclear capabilities. The delegate stated that Israel will not cooperate in any matter with this resolution, this gives a general overview of Israel's refusal on the matter.

Libya

Libya has signed the NPT and was subject to IAEA nuclear safeguards inspections, but undertook a secret nuclear weapons programme, which violated the NPT obligations. In 2003, Libya then began secret negotiations with the United States and the United Kingdom over potentially eliminating its WMD programs. Libya then soon announced that it had agreed to eliminate all its WMD programs, and permitted the UK, US and IAEA inspectors into the country to assist this process and verify its completion. The non-compliance of terms was reported to the U.N Security Council, but no action was taken, and Libya's return to compliance with safeguards was welcomed by the NPT.

India

India has also never signed the NPT. India has publicly confirmed their possession of nuclear weapons and that they have detonated nuclear devices in tests. In 2006, the US and India finalised an agreement to provide India with US civilian nuclear technology. Under the deal India has committed to classify 14 of its 22 nuclear power plants as being for civilian use and to place them under IAEA safeguards. In 2008 the IAEA approved the India Safeguarding agreement.

United States

The United States was the first nation to develop nuclear weapons and remains the only one to have used them in warfare, with the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki during World War II. It conducted 1,054 nuclear tests before and during the Cold War, along with testing various long-range nuclear weapons delivery systems. It is estimated that the United States has produced more than 70,000 nuclear warheads since 1945, more than all other nuclear weapon states combined.

Russian Federation

As of 2024, Russia has a total of 5,580 nuclear warheads, the largest confirmed stockpile globally. Of these, approximately 1,710 are deployed missiles, representing the world's largest confirmed strategically deployed nuclear arsenal as of 2024. When the Soviet Union dissolved in 1991, its

nuclear weapons were located in four of the newly independent republics: Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan. In May 1992, these four countries signed the Lisbon Protocol, agreeing to adhere to the NPT. Russia became the successor state to the Soviet Union as a nuclear-armed state, while Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan joined as non-nuclear states.

Minor Countries

China

China is one of the five recognised nuclear powers, and is believed to have 500 nuclear warheads, however the exact number remains a state secret. If we go off the 500 estimate, it is the third-largest number of nuclear warheads owned by a country in the world. Historically, China has been implicated in the development of the Pakistani nuclear program before China ratified the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in 1992. In the early 1980s, China is believed to have given Pakistan a "package" including uranium enrichment technology, high-enriched uranium, and the design for a compact nuclear weapon.

Pakistan

Pakistan has never been a signatory to the NPT and has openly acknowledged having nuclear weapons, as well as conducting nuclear tests. Due to this, the Nuclear Suppliers Group prohibits any nuclear exports from major suppliers to Pakistan. Pakistan's history as a nuclear proliferator makes it highly unlikely for the country to secure any nuclear agreements in the foreseeable future.

South Africa

South Africa acknowledged that it had independently developed nuclear weapons but later dismantled them and joined the NPT, allowing for IAEA inspections. By 1994, the IAEA confirmed that the country had completely dismantled its nuclear weapons program.

TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS

Event	Date
The United States successfully tested the first nuclear bomb	16 July 1945
Atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki	6 & 9 Aug 1945
The United Kingdom tested its first official nuclear bomb	3 Oct 1952
The International Atomic Energy Agency begins its operation	29 July 1957
The Antarctic Treaty is signed by multiple countries in Washington DC	1 Dec 1959
France successfully tested its first nuclear bomb	13 Feb 1960
The treaty banning nuclear weapons in the Atmosphere, Outer space and under water is open	8 Aug 1963
China successfully tested its first nuclear bomb	16 Oct 1964
The Treaty of Tlatelolco is opened	14 Feb 1967
The establishment of the European Atomic Energy Community	1 Jan 1968
The NPT enters into force	5 Mar 1970
The Sea-Bed Treaty opens	11 Feb 1971
The Treaty of Rarotonga	6 Aug 1985
South africa terminates its nuclear weapons programme and joins the NPT	July 1991
China joins NPT	9 Mar 1992
France joins NPT	2 Aug 1992
The Pelindaba treaty opens	11 Apr 1996
The bangkok treaty becomes operational	27 Mar 1997
India and Pakistan both test their nuclear devices	May 1998
The Hague Code of Conduct Against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (HCOG) launches	25 Nov 2002
The DPRK withdraws from the NPT	10 Jan 2003
Pakistan conducts longest nuclear-capable ballistic missile test to date	Apr 2016
United States officially withdraws from the INF Treaty	2 Aug 2019
United States formally withdraws from the Open Skies Treaty	22 Nov 2020
The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) enters into force	22 Jan 2021

Russia withdraws from the open skies treaty

7 Jun 2021

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

The NPT has the most consent from nations than any other arms limitation or disarmament agreement. Since the establishment of the NPT, there have been nine other treaties which have established nuclear weapon free areas:



Additionally, in the 2010 review conference of the NPT, members agreed to a final document with agreed conclusions and recommendations for follow up actions. The action plan consists of measures to advance nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation, the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and regional issues. One of the new developments is the focus of the implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the middle east

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

There are many ways to go about solving the issue of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons:

- **Strengthening International Treaties and Agreements**
There are many treaties already in place, and strengthening these could bring about more peaceful uses of nuclear energy
- **Enhancing Verification and Monitoring**
Strengthening the IAEA's safeguards system to ensure compliance with non-proliferation commitments through inspections and monitoring
- **Securing Nuclear Materials**
Including material accountability, physical stability, and containment and surveillance
- **Promoting nuclear weapon-free areas**
Support the establishment and maintenance of nuclear-weapon-free zones in various regions to reduce the risk of nuclear proliferation
- **Reducing Nuclear Arsenals**
Encourage nuclear-armed states to engage in disarmament negotiations and reduce their nuclear arsenal and disposal of Excess Materials: Safely dispose of excess weapons-grade fissile materials to prevent their misuse

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