

DISEC STUDY GUIDE



Dear Delegates,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the FORMUN'19.

The following pages intend to guide you in the research of the topics that will be debated at FORMUN'19 in committee sessions. Please note this guide only provides the basis for your investigation. It is your responsibility to find as much information necessary on the topics and how they relate to the country you represent. Such information should help you write your Position Paper, where you need to cite the references in the text and finally list all references in the Modern Language Association (MLA) format.

The more information and understanding you acquire on topic, the more you will be able to influence the Resolution writing process through debates [formal and informal caucuses], and the FORMUN'19 experience as a whole. Please feel free to contact us if and when you face challenges in your research or formatting your Position Papers.

We encourage you to learn all you can about your topics first and then study your country with regard to the two selected topics. Please remember that both committee members need to be well versed and ready to debate both topics.

Enjoy researching and writing your Position Papers.

We look forward to seeing you at the Conference!

Committee Director DISEC,

Fahad Manzoor

Fahadijaz11@ucp.edu.pk

Mustafa Waris

Disarmament and International Security

First Committee

The First Committee deals with disarmament, global challenges and threats to peace that affect the international community and seeks out solutions to the challenges in the international security regime.

It considers all disarmament and international security matters within the scope of the Charter or relating to the powers and functions of any other organ of the United Nations, the general principles of cooperation in the maintenance of

international peace and security, as well as principles governing disarmament and the regulation of armaments, promotion of cooperative arrangements and measures aimed at strengthening stability through lower levels of armaments.

The Committee works in close cooperation with the United Nations Disarmament Commission and the Geneva-based Conference on Disarmament. It is the only Main Committee of the General Assembly entitled to verbatim records coverage.

Source: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/first/>

AGENDA 1

Nuclear Disarmament (Topic Background)

The first purpose of the United Nations is "to maintain international peace and security," and there may be no greater threat to peace and security than nuclear weapons. With over 22,000 nuclear weapons in existence worldwide, there are enough nuclear weapons to destroy the world many times over. And yet, various states refuse to give up their nuclear weapons and other states seek to acquire nuclear weapons. By debating "Nuclear Disarmament," delegates will learn the various issues that make this a complex topic, including issues of disarmament, non-proliferation, and access to nuclear energy. Delegates will study the work of the General Assembly 1st Main Committee, Disarmament and International Security, the framework set by the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and larger international relations themes of deterrence and the "security dilemma." Can the international community achieve a world free of nuclear weapons?

Mankind has invented few, if any, weapons as powerful and destructive as the nuclear bomb. The world saw the first use of nuclear weapons on August 6, 1945, during World War II, when American pilots dropped one atomic bomb, dubbed Little Boy, on Hiroshima, Japan. Three days later, they dropped a second one, dubbed Fat Man, on Nagasaki, Japan. Casualties range from 150,000 to 200,000. The injuries and scars of that destruction are still in evidence today, both in the memories of its victims and the cancers they have developed.

By the end of World War II, the world realized that nuclear weapons were a very dangerous thing. The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty went into effect on January 1, 1967. At that time, only five countries had tested and manufactured nuclear weapons. They were United Nations Security Council permanent members: Russia, China, France, the UK, and the US. All other signatories to the NPT agreed to not pursue nuclear weaponry, instead focusing on the development of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

Since then, other countries have sought, developed, or claimed to have developed nuclear weapons. India, Pakistan, and North Korea have developed nuclear weapons, while Israel and Iran may or may not secretly harbor nuclear devices and technology. Some countries, most of them signatory to the NPT, have possessed or technology but have since destroyed or surrendered them, such as the former Soviet Union republics Kazakhstan and Ukraine.

The original five countries initially built nuclear weaponry for a powerful offense, but many have since repurposed them for domestic defense under the concept of nuclear deterrence. Countries now recognize that any nuclear strike will leave the offending country vulnerable to a nuclear retaliation, either from the defending country or its nuclear-capable allies. The result of such an eye-for-an-eye mentality would be mutually assured destruction. To this end, countries seeking to protect themselves from aggressors began amassing nuclear weapons to deter hostile countries from attack.

It is against the interest of both nuclear-capable and non-nuclear capable countries to see nuclear weaponry spread. As these weapons become more accessible, the likelihood of MAD increases for the entire global community. The effort to stop the spread of nuclear weapons is referred to as nuclear non-proliferation. The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) has spearheaded the movement to establish a nuclear-weapon-free regime and seeks to deter states and organizations that have nuclear arms or capabilities from transferring its nuclear weapons or capabilities to states or organizations that do not. To enforce and monitor the NPT, the treaty calls upon the actions of the International Atomic Energy Agency, an international agency that works primarily by inspecting nuclear facilities.

Nuclear research has also yielded a double-edged sword. Nuclear technology can be harnessed for peaceful, civilian nuclear energy. This free, cheap energy would be a boon to developing and developed countries around the world. However, the nuclear material used to create this energy can also be used to create nuclear weapons. Understandably, while some countries perceive the pursuit of nuclear energy as their sovereign right, other countries fear these nuclear power plants may instead harbor or research nuclear weaponry. To compound the issue, non-state actors, e.g. terrorists, have accelerated nuclear proliferation by covertly creating, stealing, selling, and distributing nuclear technology and weapons to nuclear-incapable parties. These goods include nuclear scientists, equipment, knowledge, or arms.

Past International Action

In 1968, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) was signed. It currently comprises 189 signatory countries, among them the Big Five, the collective name for the five countries that are recognized by the NPT to legally harbor nuclear weapons. Countries noticeably absent from the NPT include Pakistan, Israel, India, and Iran, which harbor, claim to harbor, or have sought to obtain nuclear weapons and technology. Also, notably absent from the NPT is North Korea, which was formerly a member but later absconded and is currently suspected of possessing or researching nuclear weapons and technology. The success of the NPT can be measured by the signatory nations that have formerly possessed nuclear weapons but have since disbanded them. These nations include South Africa and Belarus.

The NPT operates on three core concepts. Non-proliferation is the first concept. This concept states that signatory nations will take measures to prevent and stop the spread of nuclear weapons and technology from parties that have nuclear capabilities to parties that do not. This agreement goes both ways: signatory parties that do not have nuclear capabilities may not obtain nuclear weapon capabilities. The second pillar is disarmament; the success of the NPT can be seen in countries that have had nuclear technology or nuclear weapons and have since disarmed themselves willingly. And the third pillar is the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Countries that wish to pursue peaceful nuclear energy and nuclear technology should be permitted to do so under their sovereign rights. However, some nations have used this mantra as a curtain under which to hide the development of nuclear weapons for non-peaceful purposes.

The watchdog of the NPT is the IAEA, or International Atomic Energy Agency, which was established independently of the UN by the IAEA Statute. The IAEA works with the General Assembly, Security Council, and signatory countries through its regular inspections program to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy and deter the military use of nuclear power. Although the IAEA works closely with the UN, the IAEA is an autonomous organization.

The IAEA operates several programs. One such program is regular inspections of nuclear facilities of signatory states to guarantee compliance with the NPT. Furthermore, the IAEA also serves as a forum for nuclear scientists to share research around the globe to further the non-military use of nuclear weapons. The IAEA offers numerous other programs and services, whose purposes range from deterring signatory states from misusing nuclear technology and materials, to developing peaceful applications for nuclear technology, to promoting nuclear safety and nuclear security standards.

The international community has taken other actions to promote non-proliferation. In 1973, the United States and the Soviet Union began the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) that led to a bilateral Anti-Ballistic Missile Treatyⁱⁱⁱ, which limited each party to 100 anti-ballistic missiles and

two anti-ballistic missile production facilities. The treaty was in force until June 2002, when the United States withdrew.

In 1993 the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) continued on the foundation that SALT built. Another bilateral agreement between Russia and the United States, the treaty put hard limits on the number of multiple independently targetable reentry vehicles, or MIRVs (An MIRV is a type of missile capable of releasing multiple warheads at multiple, independent targets, essentially allowing one missile to wipe out three or more missile silos).

In 1996, the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) was adopted by the UN General Assembly. It strengthened the NPT by prohibiting the development and testing of nuclear weapons, in any environment, for either military or civilian purposes.

Also, over the past 50 years, many regions have established nuclear weapons free zones (NWFZs), which prohibit all countries and territories in that zone from possessing or utilizing nuclear weapons and sometimes nuclear technology, such as nuclear power or nuclear waste. These regions notably include territories of nuclear powered states, such as the British Virgin Islands, which exists in a NWFZ and abides by its rules, even though its protectorate, the UK, is a nuclear power.

In 2004, Resolution 1540 was adopted by the United Nations Security Council. This resolution bound all member nations to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction by any means necessary. The Security Council has utilized UNCS 1540 to deter members and non-member nations from proliferation nuclear materials or using nuclear weapons. The resolution also pushed its members to prevent the unsafe distribution or acquisition of fissile materials by establish an international set of standards related to nuclear safety and security. In 2009, Resolution 1874 was passed by the Security Council as a reaction to a nuclear test by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The resolution essentially reiterated the points of UNCS 1540, as well as urging the cooperation of the international community in preventing the spread of nuclear weapons and technology, pushing for a more rigorous framework under which to test nuclear facilities for NPT compliance, and most importantly, reinforcing the solidarity of the international community in their stance against nuclear proliferation.

Possible Solutions

Delegates should approach the issue of nuclear disarmament on three grounds: nuclear non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament, and nuclear energy.

The issue of nuclear non-proliferation will only become more pressing as nuclear weapons become easier to manufacture, conceal, and distribute. Furthermore, while a majority of the international community is on the same page regarding nuclear non-proliferation, many hostile non-state parties are not, and these parties do not always abide by international law. Delegates should be prepared to propose solutions that would deter countries from acquiring or developing nuclear weapons. These solutions must also deal with the possibilities of militant, non-member nations that possess the technology, the materiel, and the willingness to use nuclear weapons. Specifically, what measures will these solutions take to prevent the illegal distribution of nuclear weapons? What will your solution do in the case of a nuclear threat? How would these solutions be enforced? Monetary and non-monetary guarantees may or may not be effective, depending on your country's resources. Delegates should also consider bilateral, economic, or political agreements that would reign in nuclear proliferation among violating countries and violating non-state parties.

Another issue delegates must address is disarmament. The United States and Russia currently lead the world in terms of nuclear weapons available, but other nuclear-capable countries have much

colder relationships. What can be done to build trust among nuclear-capable nations, and what concessions must be granted to reduce the nuclear stockpiles of these nations? Even in the event of a nuclear disarmament agreement, delegates must address how this agreement would be enforced. The IAEA can only inspect the nuclear facilities it knows about; how can countries be transparent in the disarmament process?

Finally, delegates must address the lure of nuclear energy. Nations have a right to pursue nuclear power, but solutions must be found to keep nuclear power peaceful. What guarantees can be made? Who can enforce them? When does nuclear power become a nuclear menace?

Further Research

Guiding Questions

- What further steps can the IAEA take to further guarantee that nuclear facilities are only being used for peaceful purposes?
- What systems does your country currently employ to actively discourage non-state parties from obtaining nuclear technology or weaponry?
- How can the international community enforce the NPT on non-signatory nations?
- What effect has the NPT had on your country?

Research Sources

- Nuclear Files. <http://www.nuclearfiles.org/>
- The Nuclear Threat Initiative. <http://www.nti.org/>
- UN Office on Disarmament Affairs (UNODA). <http://www.un.org/disarmament/WMD/Nuclear/>
- Security Council Committee 1540 on the non-proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. <http://www.un.org/en/sc/1540/>
- Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. <http://www.cnduk.org/>
- Global Policy Forum. The Security Council and Nuclear Weapons. <http://www.globalpolicy.org/component/content/article/185/41129.html>
- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). <http://www.iaea.org/>
- Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. <http://www.un.org/disarmament/WMD/Nuclear/NPT.shtml>