

11TH MUN
ICT



UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

BACKGROUND-TOPIC 1

**“Nuclear Non-Proliferation and
Disarmament”**

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WELCOME

On behalf of the Instituto Cultural Tampico, the Committee of General Assembly and the Secretariat welcomes you to the 11th edition of MUNICT.

The Model of United Nations is a great opportunity where students can develop abilities that will not only be useful for the model, but for daily life.

The chair of the General Assembly will make sure to get the most out of delegates. Encouraging them to acquire skills like doing research about current topics, the elaboration of documents written in a diplomatic language and improving their public speaking skills.

The Chair hopes that delegates discuss with each other in a respectful environment and in a dialogue respecting the different opinions and solutions that are presented for “Nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament”.

To conclude this welcome, the General Assembly Chair wishes all the delegates the best luck and the greatest of success in their performances during the upcoming model.

GA's chair

President: Luis Eduardo Del Ángel Díaz

Secretary: René Tinajero Rivera

Moderator: Camila Itzel Jiménez Ramones

"Try not to become a man of success, but rather try to become a man of value."

Albert Einstein

HISTORY OF THE COMMITTEE

The General Assembly established in 1945 acts as the main organ of the Organization of the United Nations carrying a central role as the chief deliberative policymaking and in important processes like the setting and codification of international laws, crossing through pillars and organs of the UN regarding political, legal, economic, social and humanitarian matters. Provides a forum for the discussion of international issues, searching for resolutions through the UN pillars; Human rights, Peace and security, and development.

Each of the 193 Member States in the Assembly has one vote. Votes taken on designated important issues – such as recommendations on peace and security, the election of Security Council and Economic and Social Council members, and budgetary questions – require a two-thirds majority of Member States, but other questions are decided by a simple majority. That said, following informal consultations among Member States during which proposals are negotiated, the majority of resolutions are adopted without a vote.

Through a committee made in 1965 called The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, the GA monitors the performance and development of the UN Peacekeeping.

Regular meetings are from September to December each year, and thereafter meetings from January to August, including outstanding reports from the Fourth and Fifth Committees.

There has been a sustained effort to make the work of the General Assembly more focused and relevant. This was first identified as a priority during the 58th session, and efforts continued at subsequent sessions to streamline the agenda, improve the practices and working methods of the Main Committees, enhance the role of the General Committee, strengthen the role and authority of the President and examine the Assembly's role in the process of selecting the Secretary-General.

INTRODUCTION

Nuclear Nonproliferation and disarmament are critical components of international security and global stability. These concepts aim to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and reduce existing nuclear arsenals, respectively, thereby reducing the risk of nuclear war and promoting worldwide peace.

The catastrophic impact of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 marked the need to control nuclear weapons. This led to the establishment of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in 1968, which serves as the basis of global nonproliferation efforts. The NPT, which came into force in 1970, has three main objectives: preventing the spread of nuclear weapons, promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and furthering the goal of nuclear disarmament.

Nuclear disarmament efforts gained momentum during the Cold War, with significant treaties like the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) and the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF) aiming to curb the nuclear arms race between the United States and the Soviet Union. In the post-Cold War era, additional agreements, such as the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), further reduced nuclear arsenals.

Despite these efforts, challenges remain, including non-compliance by certain states, technological advancements that complicate verification, and ongoing geopolitical tensions. Contemporary initiatives like the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), adopted in 2017, represent ongoing efforts to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons.

Ensuring global peace and security through nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament requires continuous international cooperation, robust verification mechanisms, and a commitment to overcoming emerging challenges.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The first and last time that nuclear weapons were used was on August 6th 1945. The United States of America is responsible the use of this artifact against the state of Japan. These attacks in Hiroshima and Nagasaki made the whole world realize the damage that can be caused if these weapons are used.

"We have used the bomb against those who attacked us without warning at Pearl Harbor, against those who have tortured and killed American prisoners of war, against those who have abandoned all pretense of obeying the international laws of war. We have used the bomb to shorten the torment of war, to save the lives of thousands upon thousands of young Americans." - Harry S. Truman, August 9, 1945

The Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) is a landmark international treaty whose objective is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament. The Treaty represents the only binding commitment in a multilateral treaty to the goal of disarmament by the nuclear-weapon States. Opened for signature in 1968, the Treaty entered into force in 1970. On 11 May 1995, the Treaty was extended indefinitely.

A total of 191 States have joined the Treaty, including the five nuclear-weapon States. More countries have ratified the NPT than any other arms limitation and disarmament agreement, a testament to the Treaty's significance.

The Treaty is regarded as the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime and an essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament. It was designed to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, to further the goals of nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament, and to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy

To further the goal of non-proliferation and as a confidence-building measure between States parties, the Treaty establishes a safeguards system under the responsibility of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Safeguards are used to verify compliance with the Treaty through inspections conducted by the IAEA. The Treaty promotes cooperation in the field of peaceful nuclear technology and equal access to this technology for all States parties, while safeguards prevent the diversion of fissile material for weapons use.

A new treaty, the 2017 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), seeks to promote disarmament in line with the NPT's disarmament pillar by

strengthening the stigma around nuclear weapons. The TPNW was negotiated in 2017 and entered into force in January 2021. It establishes a comprehensive prohibition on nuclear weapons, including their possession, use and threat of use. Nuclear-armed states and their allies, however, have opposed the new treaty, arguing that it could undermine the NPT by creating parallel norms and weakening the alleged international stability created by nuclear deterrence.

SIPRI conducts researches to facilitate both nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, and it analyzes developments related to the NPT and the TPNW, including the interrelationship between the two treaties. SIPRI follows efforts to bring the 1996 Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) into force and to negotiate a proposed Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT).

A great deal of research has been done to highlight the catastrophic impacts of nuclear weapons on humans, animals, plants, and other natural features like water bodies, soil, etc. The known effects of nuclear weapons involve causing death, blunt trauma, thermal radiation, firestorms, radioactive fallout to neighboring territories (that can cause additional casualties and destruction), radiation sickness, cancer, and genetic diseases.¹ In the case of animals and plants, nuclear weapons can destroy marine and land life by causing contamination through nuclear radiation.

Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (“NPT”) have expressed their concerns about the “catastrophic humanitarian consequences” of nuclear weapons.² However, it is important to note that there is little focus on the environmental impact of nuclear weapons.

Most frequently, ‘tactical’ nuclear weapons imply the weapons that were designed to be used on the battlefields of Europe during the Cold War. In the last century, they were deployed across the continent in case a ‘hot’ conflict between NATO and the Warsaw Pact were to escalate. At the end of the 1980s there were around 7,500 of these weapons deployed throughout Europe, but the mutual unilateral reductions that took place in the early 1990s brought the numbers down significantly. The Federation of American Scientists currently estimates Russian non-strategic nuclear warheads at 1,912, and approximately 100 U.S. non-strategic warheads deployed in five European countries.

After the detonation of a “small” nuclear weapon in Hiroshima, around 140,000 people died and generations later, people are still suffering from diseases caused by the radiation.

It takes around 10 seconds for the fireball from a nuclear explosion to reach its maximum size. A nuclear explosion releases vast amounts of energy in the form of blasts, heat and radiation. An enormous shockwave reaches speeds of

many hundreds of kilometers an hour. The blast kills people close to ground zero, and causes lung injuries, ear damage and internal bleeding further away. People sustain injuries from collapsing buildings and flying objects. Thermal radiation is so intense that almost everything close to ground zero is vaporized. The extreme heat causes severe burns and ignites fires over a large area, which coalesce into a giant firestorm. Even people in underground shelters face likely death due to a lack of oxygen and carbon monoxide poisoning.

Then, the world will race to provide help to victims. But, they will have to wait. As has been shown in numerous reports and by the ICRC, emergency services will not be able to get close enough to save some of those who survived the initial blast.

Medical services, already under severe wartime strain, will not be able to cope. Doctors and nurses will try to do what they can, but they will not be able to provide the relief needed for the massive number of casualties and injuries in place.

Specialized treatment including for radiation exposure or for burns caused by the fireball, will be impossible to provide for the unknown number of casualties. No healthcare system in the world is capable of an adequate response to a nuclear attack, and certainly not one in a country at war.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Committee Chair is to nurture a community of adept diplomats and future leaders with a forward-thinking vision, particularly in the realm of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. Engaging actively in our proceedings, delegates will acquire indispensable skills in diplomacy, critical analysis, and open-mindedness.

Within the framework of the General Assembly, our focus is on refining your abilities in crafting resolutions, engaging in debates, and fostering open-minded perspectives, all aimed at addressing the pressing questions the world poses to us. Delegates must comprehend the monumental responsibility they bear—the responsibility to regulate global interactions and work towards achieving equity and synergy among nations.

The main objective of this topic is to advance global nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament efforts by fostering international dialogue, developing collaborative frameworks, and promoting comprehensive measures to reduce nuclear arsenals. The committee aims to enhance compliance with existing nonproliferation treaties, encourage the adoption of new agreements, and support initiatives that lead to the peaceful resolution of nuclear tensions, ensuring a safer and more secure world.

Delegates, armed with capable and purposeful intent, possess the capacity to guide society toward a better world by employing distinguished diplomacy to solve problems. Demonstrating respect, presenting well-founded arguments, and sharing pertinent information in the forum, delegates will put forth proposals and requests shaped during the caucus, informed by acquired knowledge through thoughtful questioning.

The significant responsibility of approving the committee's resolutions is entrusted with confidence into your capable hands. Embracing this goal, we urge delegates to actively engage in discussions, broadening their perspectives throughout our deliberations. Through this process, we aspire to instill in each delegate a profound sense of responsibility towards the greater world and a commitment to fostering positive change, particularly in the realm of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.

COUNTRIES' BACKGROUND

Turkmenistan

One of the most sparsely populated nations in Asia, Turkmenistan is bordered by Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Iran, Afghanistan, and has access to the Caspian Sea. Turkmenistan is extremely rich in natural gas resources. Turkmenistan is a presidential republic that declared its independence in 1991 after the fall of the Soviet Union. In 1995 Turkmenistan declared a policy of “permanent neutrality” which prevented the country from participating in multinational defense organizations.

People's Republic of China

Based on recent trends and available source material, it is estimated that China has approximately 500 nuclear warheads that can be delivered by air, sea and land, with its nuclear arsenal likely to increase in the next few decades. There are several unknowns that complicate our picture of Chinese strategic force numbers, however. China provides no official data on its nuclear forces and stringent controls messaging surrounding them.

Republic of Belarus

In May 2024, the Russian government tested its nuclear weapons arsenal, taking place on Belarusian territory. The Russian and Belarusian governments have been working hand in hand over the past few months. The Belarusian maneuvers began a day after Russia announced plans to hold similar drills simulating the use of battlefield nuclear weapons in what it cast as a response to statements by Western officials signaling possibly deeper involvement in the war in Ukraine.

The Kingdom of Denmark

Denmark supports the retention and potential use of nuclear weapons on its behalf, as indicated by its endorsement of various alliance statements of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), of which it is a member. Denmark did not participate in the negotiation of the treaty at the United Nations in New York in 1971 and thus did not vote on its adoption. On the opening day of the negotiating conference, it joined the United States and several other states in protesting the treaty-making process.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea

The North Korean government has been developing its nuclear weapons program for decades. The country is estimated to possess 30 nuclear weapons, although this is not an official figure. In 2003, North Korea withdrew from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and, on October 9, 2006, conducted its first nuclear test. North Korea has not conducted any nuclear or long-range missile tests since 2017.

Republic of Nicaragua

Nicaragua was among 127 states that endorsed a “humanitarian pledge” in 2015–16 to cooperate “in efforts to stigmatize, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons”. The pledge was instrumental in building momentum and support for convening the TPNW negotiations. Nicaragua has signed and ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). It was among the original 50 states parties to the treaty when it entered into force on 22 January 2021.

The United States of America

In July 1945, the United States conducted the first nuclear test, and one month later became the first and only country to use nuclear weapons in war. The U.S. currently maintains one of the world’s largest nuclear arsenals with a triad of delivery systems. The FAS estimates that the United States maintains a stockpile of approximately 3,708 warheads, a figure unchanged from the previous year. The total number of U.S. nuclear warheads is currently estimated to include 1,770 deployed warheads, of which 1,938 are reserved for operational forces.

Kingdom of Sweden

Sweden thereby joined a unique club of nations – which includes Switzerland, Ukraine and South Africa – who gave up their nuclear weapons programmes and showed the world that nuclear disarmament was possible. Sweden may have been a neutral country, but it was a nation whose leaders believed in an armed neutrality – that the price of neutrality was a strong military – and its leadership understood that tactical atomic bombs for use on the battlefield might be needed in the future to preserve that neutrality.

The Slovak Republic

The Nuclear Regulatory Authority of the Slovak Republic (UJDSR) is the independent regulatory body responsible for licensing, safety, waste management, radiation protection and safeguards. The Slovak Republic has been a party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) since 1993 as a non-nuclear weapons state. The Additional Protocol in relation to its safeguards agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency was signed in 1999. The country is a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group, and since 2004, of Euratom.

The Russian Federation

Since the invasion of Ukraine in February, Russian President Vladimir Putin has repeatedly violated international law. Russia has just under 6,000 nuclear weapons - the world’s largest nuclear arsenal - and can launch its nuclear weapons from land-based missiles, from submarines or from planes. Russian nuclear weapons range widely in destructive yield - from weapons equivalent to hundreds of kilotons of

TNT to so-called “tactical” nuclear weapons that mostly range from about 10-100 kilotons.

Mongolian People's Republic

Mongolia, as a State committed to non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects and to achieving nuclear disarmament, declared in September 1992 its territory a nuclear-weapon-free zone and proposed to have that status internationally guaranteed. Mongolia’s initiative was welcomed by nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon States alike.

The Hellenic Republic

Since 2018, Greece has consistently voted against an annual UN General Assembly resolution welcoming the adoption of the TPNW and calling on all states to sign, ratify or accede to it “as soon as possible.” Greece supports the retention and possible use of nuclear weapons on its behalf, as demonstrated by its endorsement of several alliance declarations by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), of which it is a member. In August 2022, Greece claimed that the TPNW “does not make the necessary provisions for an incremental withdrawal of nuclear weapons, nor does it provide a verifiable mechanism that would oversee such an undertaking”.

The Federative Republic of Brazil

Brazil has signed but not yet ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). Brazil has signed but not yet ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) at a high-level ceremony in New York on 20 September 2017, describing it as “a historic moment”. He submitted the treaty to the National Congress in 2018 “with a view to its ratification”. However, no progress was made in this regard during Jair Bolsonaro’s term in office from 2019 to 2022.

United Mexican States

The Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, better known as the Treaty of Tlatelolco, was signed in Mexico City on February 14, 1967. The treaty attests to an entire geographical region’s rejection of the notion that nuclear weapons are guarantors of international security. One of the goals that the treaty had was to ensure the absence of nuclear weapons in the zone of application defined in the Treaty.

The Republic of Chad

Chad participated in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017 and was among 122 states that voted in favor of its adoption. Chad was among the 127 states that endorsed a “humanitarian pledge” in 2015-16 to cooperate “in efforts to stigmatize, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons”. The pledge was

instrumental in building momentum and support for convening the TPNW negotiations.

The Republic of Indonesia

Indonesia has no nuclear, chemical or biological weapons programmes. Indonesia signed the NPT as a non-nuclear weapon state in 1970 and has since been a strong advocate of nuclear disarmament and peaceful uses of nuclear technology. Indonesia has missiles as well as submarine capabilities with its four diesel-electric attack submarines (SSKs). Does not have nuclear power reactors; operates three nuclear research reactors through its nuclear energy agency, BATAN; Despite safety concerns due to earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, has long-term plans for nuclear power reactors including to develop a nuclear power plant in 2039.

New Zealand

Opposition to nuclear weapons and nuclear tests gained momentum in New Zealand throughout the 1960s and 1970s, culminating in 1984 when the Government declared New Zealand 'nuclear-free'. This was enshrined in legislation in the 1987 New Zealand Nuclear-Free Zone Disarmament and Arms Control Act. In 2017, States including New Zealand adopted the landmark Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). New Zealand became a state party to the TPNW in 2018.

Republic of El Salvador

El Salvador signed and ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). It was one of the original 50 States Parties to the treaty when it entered into force on 22 January 2021. Hugo Martínez, the then Minister of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador, signed the TPNW at a high-level ceremony in New York when it opened for signature on 20 September 2017. El Salvador was the 21st State to ratify or accede to the TPNW.

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Since the end of the Cold War, the UK has taken a number of disarmament steps in support of the NPT. It has withdrawn all other nuclear weapons systems except for its submarine-launched Trident system. It has made changes to the operational status of the deterrent and been increasingly transparent about its nuclear inventory. The programme to replace the UK's nuclear deterrent has been underway since 2006. It involves the replacement of the Vanguard class submarines (SSBN) with a new Dreadnought class of SSBN from the early 2030s.

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Pakistan conducted its first nuclear tests in May 1998, in response to nuclear tests by its regional rival, India. The success of the program is due in part to Abdul Qadeer Khan's clandestine international nuclear smuggling network. Pakistan has greatly expanded its nuclear forces and remains outside the NPT regime; the country is also a major source of proliferation concern. It announced the development of low-yield tactical nuclear weapons in 2015. It has not endorsed a policy of no-first use of nuclear weapons and uses its nuclear arsenal as a deterrent against regional threats.

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