



Disarmament and International Security Committee

Promotion of Multilateralism in The Area of Disarmament and Nuclear Non-Proliferation

**BACKGROUND GUIDE**

**SAIMUN 2019**

Honorable delegates,

Greetings!

We are grateful to be welcoming you to the Disarmament and International Security Committee of this session of the annual Sub Saharan Africa International Model United Nations conference, held here in Nairobi, Kenya. As always, this conference is catered to those interested in diplomacy, international relations, politics and human rights, economics among others, while allowing space for healthy and rigorous debate. Over the course of the next four days, we will undertake the task of addressing the promotion of Multilateralism in the Area of Disarmament and Non-Proliferation.

The members of the dais this session are:

1. Kaunga Kyule- Chair
2. Doreen Ochung- Co-Chair
3. Laura Okeyo- Committee Secretary

The following pages of this document will function as an informative guide on the basics of the discourse. However, we strongly encourage you investigate the further reading sections of the topic, and research your Member State's own views. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact either the SAIMUN Secretariat through their email or us through our committee email, both of which are listed below. We wish nothing more for you to have a safe and enjoyable Conference! Here's to fruitful debate! All the best,

Kindest Regards,

DISEC Dias.

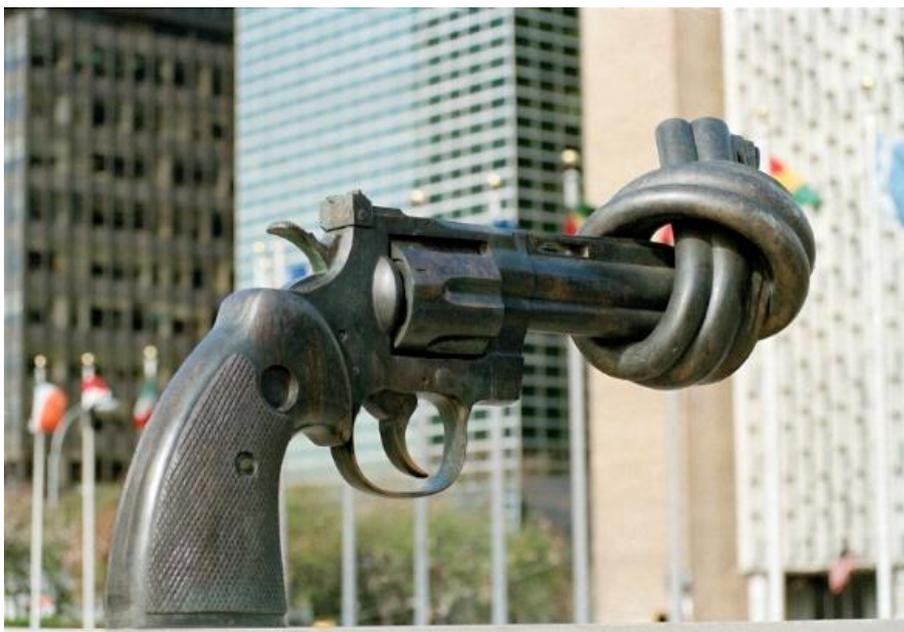
## DISEC

Known as the First Committee, the Disarmament and International Security Committee is a committee in the General Assembly of the United Nations. The First Committee is mandated to deal with an array of topics ranging from:

- Nuclear weapons
- Other weapons of mass destruction
- Outer space (disarmament aspects)
- Conventional weapons
- Regional disarmament and security
- Other disarmament measures and international security
- Disarmament machinery

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 has two main bodies that report to it: The Disarmament Commission (UNDC) and the Conference on Disarmament (CD).

The Disarmament Commission meets yearly in New York for three weeks hosting both plenary meetings and working groups. The work of the Commission is usually divided between two working groups, with each group tackling one topic from the whole range of disarmament issues for that session, one of which must include nuclear disarmament. The Commission reports to the General Assembly via the First Committee at least once a year.

While the Conference on Disarmament is not formally part of the United Nations machinery, it still reports to the General Assembly annually, or more frequently, as appropriate. Its budget is also included in that of the United Nations. The Conference meets in Geneva tri-annually and focuses on:

- Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament
- Prevention of nuclear war
- Prevention of an arms race in outer space
- Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons
- New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons including radiological weapons
- Comprehensive programme of disarmament and transparency in armaments



## **PROMOTION OF MULTILATERISM IN THE AREA OF DISARMAMENT AND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION**

### **DEFINITION OF IMPORTANT TERMS.**

**MULTILATERISM-** This is a situation when at least three governments participate in a particular issue or to try to solve a problem.

**DISARMAMENT-** This, in international relations, refers to the complete abolition of all armaments, as advocated by utopian thinkers and occasionally by governments.

**NON-PROLIFERATION TREATIES-** A nonproliferation treaty is an agreement between powerful countries to limit the number of nuclear weapons they have, with the eventual goal of disarmament, or completely eliminating them.

### **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

The establishment and maintenance of peaceful correlations between member states is one of the key functions of the United Nations. This environment of mutual understanding and the aversion of conflict can be arrived at by an array of various means but the most effective of these are treaties signed by all member partisan to the agreement. It, therefore, comes as no wonder the paramount importance accorded to treaties involving disarmament and especially nuclear non-proliferation.

The signing of the Treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2017, the first of its kind, should have paved way for other countries to take engage in similar discourses. However with the standoff being witnessed between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States of America, the showdown between the Kremlin and the Big Apple, and the crises being witnessed in the Middle East, this committee stands to wonder, what exactly is being done in terms of Disarmament and Nuclear Non-Proliferation and have we been caught in the headlights of a World War III?

## **HISTORY/ PAST UN ACTIONS**

The commitment of the United Nations to Disarmament and Nuclear Non-Proliferation began with the signing of the UN Charter in 1945. The following year this committee adopted a resolution entitled “Establishment of a Commission to Deal with the Problems Raised by the Discovery of Atomic Energy”. In 1952, the General Assembly, by its resolution 502 (VI) of January 1952, created the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC) under the Security Council with a mandate to prepare proposals for a treaty for the regulation, limitation and balanced reduction of all armed forces and all armaments, including the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction.

From 1960 onward, disarmament negotiations were carried out by a succession of bodies, starting with the Ten-Nation Disarmament Committee. This body became the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee in 1962, the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament in 1969 and ultimately the Conference on Disarmament from 1978.

In 1978, the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament established a successor Disarmament Commission as a subsidiary organ of the Assembly, composed of all Member States of the United Nations. It was created as a deliberative body, with the function of considering and making recommendations on various issues in the field of disarmament and of following up on the relevant decisions and recommendations of the special session. It reports annually to the General Assembly.

In 1989, to allow for in-depth consideration, it decided that its substantive agenda should be limited to a maximum of four items. From 1993, it has, in practice, dealt with two or three items, each of which has usually been considered for three consecutive years. In 1998, by its decision 52/492, the General Assembly decided that the UNDC’s agenda, as of 2000, would normally comprise two substantive items per year from the whole range of disarmament issues, including one on nuclear disarmament.

## HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

Proposals for a nuclear-weapon-ban treaty first emerged following a review conference of the NPT in 2010, at which the five officially recognized nuclear-armed state parties – the United States, Russia, Britain, France and China – rejected calls for the start of negotiations on a comprehensive Nuclear weapons convention. Disarmament advocates first considered starting this process without the opposed states as a "path forward". Subsequently, a less technical treaty concentrated on the ban of nuclear weapons appeared to be a more realistic goal.

Three major intergovernmental conferences in 2013 and 2014 on the "humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons", in Norway, Mexico and Austria, strengthened the international resolve to outlaw nuclear weapons. The second such conference, in Mexico in February 2014, concluded that the prohibition of a certain type of weapon typically precedes, and stimulates, its elimination.

In 2014, a group of non-nuclear-armed nations known as the New Agenda Coalition (NAC) presented the idea of a nuclear-weapon-ban treaty to NPT states parties as a possible "effective measure" to implement Article VI of the NPT, which requires all states parties to pursue negotiations in good faith for nuclear disarmament. The NAC argued that a ban treaty would operate "alongside" and "in support of" the NPT.

In 2015, the UN General Assembly established a working group with a mandate to address "concrete effective legal measures, legal provisions and norms" for attaining and maintaining a nuclear-weapon-free world. In August 2016, it adopted a report recommending negotiations in 2017 on a "legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination".

In October 2016, the First Committee of the UN General Assembly acted upon this recommendation by adopting a resolution that establishes a mandate for nuclear-weapon-ban treaty negotiations in 2017 (with 123 states voting in favour and 38 against, and 16 abstaining). North Korea was the only country possessing nuclear weapons that voted for this resolution, though it did not take part in negotiations

**QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION MUST ANSWER.**

1. Does the spread of nuclear weapons make the world safer or more dangerous?
2. Is the weakening of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime detrimental to world peace?