



DISEC

**INTERNATIONAL JOINT ACTION TOWARDS DENUCLEARIZATION AND
DISARMAMENT**

BACKGROUND GUIDE

SAIMUN 2022

Honorable Delegates,

Greetings!

We are very much pleased to welcome to this year's chapter of the annual Sub-Saharan Africa International Model United Nations Conference Disarmament and International Security Committee. The conference aims at covering areas such as diplomacy, international relations, economics, political and human rights among others whilst allowing room for rigorous and interactive debate.

During the course of the debate, we shall address the international joint action towards denuclearization and disarmament globally.

The members of the dais in this session are:

1. Hellen Keller
2. Dylan Mogaka
3. Florence Mukui
4. Lilian Olivia

The following contents of the document will act as a basic and informative guide on the basics. In spite of this, we strongly urge you to further and fully investigate and research vastly on the topic at hand and on you Member State's own views.

If you have any questions within this course, kindly feel free to contact either the SAIMUN Secretariat through their official email or us through the committee email, both of which are enumerated below. Overall, we wish you interactive, educative, and fruitful debate throughout the conference. All the best!

Kinde Regards,

DISEC Dais,

Email: disec@saimun.net

DISEC

Commonly known as the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, the Disarmament and International Security Committee is one of the six main committees at the General Assembly of the United Nations. The committee meets annually, and all 193 member states of the UN can attend. It is the only main committee of the General Assembly entitled to verbatim records.

The main focal points of focus for the committee fall under seven thematic clusters ranging from:

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

The First Committee has two main bodies that report to it: the Disarmament Commission (UNDC) and the Conference on Disarmament (CD). It also hears reports from any expert groups it establishes.

Disarmament Commission

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.

Conference on Disarmament

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 included in that of the United Nations. The Conference meets in Geneva triannually and focuses on the following issues:

- 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.

INTERNATIONAL JOINT ACTION TOWARDS DENUCLEARIZATION AND DISARMAMENT

INTRODUCTION

In its landmark resolution 1653 of 1961, "Declaration on the prohibition of the use of nuclear and thermo-nuclear weapons," the UN General Assembly stated that use of nuclear weaponry "would exceed even the scope of war and cause indiscriminate suffering and destruction to mankind and civilization and, as such, is contrary to the rules of international law and to the laws of humanity".

The UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) is a department of the United Nations Secretariat established in January 1998 as part of the United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan's plan to reform the UN as presented in his report to the General Assembly in July 1997.

Its goal is to promote nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and the strengthening of the disarmament regimes in respect to other weapons of mass destruction, chemical and biological weapons. It also promotes disarmament efforts in the area of conventional weapons, especially land mines and small arms, which are often the weapons of choice in contemporary conflicts.

By resolution 71/258, the General Assembly decided to convene in 2017 a United Nations conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination.

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) includes a comprehensive set of prohibitions on participating in any nuclear weapon activities. These include:

1. Undertakings not to develop, test, produce, acquire, possess, stockpile, use or threaten to use nuclear weapons
2. Prohibition of the deployment of nuclear weapons on national territory and the provision of assistance to any State in the conduct of prohibited activities.
3. prevention and suppression of any activity prohibited under the TPNW undertaken by persons or on territory under its jurisdiction or control.
4. The Treaty also obliges States parties to provide adequate assistance to individuals affected by the use or testing of nuclear weapons, as well as to take necessary and appropriate measure of environmental remediation in areas under its jurisdiction or control contaminated as a result of activities related to the testing or use of nuclear weapons.

A series of three international conferences on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, convened in 2013 and 2014 respectively in Norway, Mexico, and Austria, sought to present a facts-based understanding of the short and longer-term effects of a nuclear weapon detonation.

These conferences, which included participation by a large majority of States, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and hundreds of representatives of non-governmental organizations, principally coordinated by the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), played an important role in building demand for urgent action to advance nuclear disarmament negotiations.

Proponents of the ban treaty believe that it will help "stigmatize" nuclear weapons, and serve as a "catalyst" for elimination. Around two-thirds of the world's nations have pledged to work together "to fill the legal gap" in the existing international regime governing nuclear weapons, and view a nuclear-weapon-ban treaty as one option for achieving this objective

HISTORY

Nuclear disarmament may be described as the act of reducing or doing away with nuclear weapons. It can also be defined as the state in which the world is free of nuclear weapons.

Denuclearization is the process leading to complete nuclear disarmament.

Proponents of nuclear disarmament say that it would lessen the probability of nuclear war occurring, especially accidentally. Critics of nuclear disarmament say it would undermine deterrence.

Radioactive fallout from nuclear weapons testing was first drawn to public attention in 1954 when a hydrogen bomb test in the Pacific contaminated the crew of the Japanese fishing boat Lucky Dragon. One of the fishermen died in Japan seven months later. The incident caused widespread concern around the world and "provided a decisive impetus for the emergence of the anti-nuclear weapons movement in many countries". The anti-nuclear weapons movement grew rapidly because for many people the atomic bomb "encapsulated the very worst direction in which society was moving".

Peace movements emerged in Japan and in 1954 they converged to form a unified "Japanese Council Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs". Japanese opposition to the Pacific nuclear weapons tests was widespread, and "an estimated 35 million signatures were collected on petitions calling for bans on nuclear weapons". In the United Kingdom, the first Aldermaston March organized by the Direct-Action Committee and supported by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament took place on Easter 1958, when several thousand people marched for four days from Trafalgar Square, London, to the Atomic Weapons Research

Establishment close to Aldermaston in Berkshire, England, to demonstrate their opposition to nuclear weapons. CND organised Aldermaston marches into the late 1960s when tens of thousands of people took part in the four-day events.

One of the earliest peace organisations to emerge after the Second World War was the World Peace Council, which was directed by the Communist Party of the Soviet Union through the Soviet Peace Committee.

Past UN actions

In its landmark resolution 1653 of 1961, "Declaration on the prohibition of the use of nuclear and thermo-nuclear weapons," the UN General Assembly stated that use of nuclear weaponry "would exceed even the scope of war and cause indiscriminate suffering and destruction to mankind and civilization and, as such, is contrary to the rules of international law and to the laws of humanity".[61]

The UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) is a department of the United Nations Secretariat established in January 1998 as part of the United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan's plan to reform the UN as presented in his report to the General Assembly in July 1997.[62]

Its goal is to promote nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and the strengthening of the disarmament regimes in respect to other weapons of mass destruction, chemical and biological weapons. It also promotes disarmament efforts in the area of conventional weapons, especially land mines and small arms, which are often the weapons of choice in contemporary conflicts.

Following the retirement of Sergio Duarte in February 2012, Angela Kane was appointed as the new High Representative for Disarmament Affairs.

On July 7, 2017, a UN conference adopted the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons with the backing of 122 states. It opened for signature on September 20, 2017.

Treaties signed

After the 1986 Reykjavik Summit between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and the new Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev, the United States and the Soviet Union concluded two important nuclear arms reduction treaties: the INF Treaty (1987) and START I (1991). After the end of the Cold War, the United States and the Russian Federation concluded the Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty (2003) and the New START Treaty (2010). The US withdrew from the INF Treaty in 2019 under president Donald Trump,[56] and launched the United States–Russia Strategic Stability Dialogue (SSD) in 2021 under president Joe Biden.[57][58]

When the extreme danger intrinsic to nuclear war and the possession of nuclear weapons became apparent to all sides during the Cold War, a series of disarmament and nonproliferation treaties were agreed upon between the United States, the Soviet Union, and several other states throughout the world. Many of these treaties involved years of negotiations, and seemed to result in important steps in arms reductions and reducing the risk of nuclear war.

Key treaties

Partial Test Ban Treaty (PTBT) 1963: Prohibited all testing of nuclear weapons except underground.

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)—signed 1968, came into force 1970: An international treaty (currently with 189 member states) to limit the spread of nuclear weapons. The treaty has

three main pillars: nonproliferation, disarmament, and the right to peacefully use nuclear technology.

Interim Agreement on Offensive Arms (SALT I) 1972: The Soviet Union and the United States agreed to a freeze in the number of intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) and submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs) that they would deploy.

Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty (ABM) 1972: The United States and Soviet Union could deploy ABM interceptors at two sites, each with up to 100 ground-based launchers for ABM interceptor missiles. In a 1974 Protocol, the US and Soviet Union agreed to only deploy an ABM system to one site.

Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT II) 1979: Replacing SALT I, SALT II limited both the Soviet Union and the United States to an equal number of ICBM launchers, SLBM launchers, and heavy bombers. Also placed limits on Multiple Independent Reentry Vehicles (MIRVs).

Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF) 1987: Banned US and Soviet Union land-based ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, and missile launchers with ranges of 500–1,000 kilometers (310–620 mi) (short medium-range) and 1,000–5,500 km (620–3,420 mi) (intermediate-range).

Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START I)—signed 1991, ratified 1994: Limited long-range nuclear forces in the United States and the newly independent states of the former Soviet Union to 6,000 attributed warheads on 1,600 ballistic missiles and bombers.

Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty II (START II)—signed 1993, never put into force: START II was a bilateral agreement between the US and Russia which attempted to commit each side to deploy no more than 3,000 to 3,500 warheads by December 2007 and also included a prohibition against deploying multiple independent reentry vehicles (MIRVs) on intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs)

Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty (SORT or Moscow Treaty)—signed 2002, into force 2003: A very loose treaty that is often criticized by arms control advocates for its ambiguity and lack of depth, Russia and the United States agreed to reduce their "strategic nuclear warheads" (a term that remained undefined in the treaty) to between 1,700 and 2,200 by 2012. Was superseded by New Start Treaty in 2010.

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)—signed 1996, not yet in force: The CTBT is an international treaty (currently with 181 state signatures and 148 state ratifications) that bans all nuclear explosions in all environments. While the treaty is not in force, Russia has not tested a nuclear weapon since 1990 and the United States has not since 1992.

New START Treaty—signed 2010, into force in 2011: replaces SORT treaty, reduces deployed nuclear warheads by about half, will remain into force until 2026.

Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons—signed 2017, entered into force on January 22, 2021: prohibits possession, manufacture, development, and testing of nuclear weapons, or assistance in such activities, by its parties.

Only one country (South Africa) has been known to ever dismantle an indigenously-developed nuclear arsenal completely. The apartheid government of South Africa produced half a dozen crude fission weapons during the 1980s, but they were dismantled in the early 1990s.

What a resolution must answer

1. What is the current situation of nuclear weapons worldwide?
2. How do different countries use these nuclear weapons?
3. What impact do these nuclear weapons have?
4. What should be done to reduce the use of nuclear weapons?
5. What can be done to countries that use these nuclear weapons?
6. What has worked to promote denuclearization and disarmament?
7. In what way can this committee convince its members to be part of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons?
8. Are recent proposals likely to be effective?
9. What don't we know yet?

REFERENCES

Atomic Obsession. Archived from the original on April 16, 2012. Retrieved September 4, 2012.

26, 2019.

Global Zero Archived February 8, 2018, at the Wayback Machine

orces, 2002

"Nuclear Disarmament". US Policy World. Archived from the original on October 19, 2009

"Nuclear Disarmament," US Policy World". Archived from the original on January 2, 2008. Retrieved September 27, 2007United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs

Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

Chapter XXVI: Disarmament – No. 9 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons". United Nations Treaty Collection. 6 July 2019. Retrieved 21 September 2017

"UN: Nuclear weapons ban treaty to enter into force"

"Draft Convention on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Update Submitted by the President of the Conference"