# GA1: Disarmament and International Security Committee

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**Issue:** Ensuring nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament

TIMUN '24

Turkish International Model United Nations

THIMUN Affiliated Conference

Committee: Disarmament Committee (GA1)

Issue: Ensuring nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament

Student Officer: Arel Ulukuş - Deputy Chair

# I. Introduction

One of the most important agenda of the United Nations Disarmament and International Security Committee since its establishment has been nuclear nonproliferation. In the 20th century which witnessed two World Wars in four decades, mankind sought to improve technology to assert their dominance over their own species. Therefore, in those four decades, 1910-1950, the world became witness to an outstanding amount of improvements in communication, transportation, and warfare technologies. Perhaps, the most significant, although equally destructive weapon developed during these times was the atomic bomb. The primitive idea behind the atomic theory, the divisibility of atomic particles, was developed by a particular German-Jewish scientist who later made his escape to the United States before WW2, Albert Einstein. Building upon that principle, the United States of America began the Manhattan Project to build a weapon that would be so strong to destroy cities in seconds and would also act as a deterring factor against nations who were willing to fight against them. On July 16, 1945, the first successful denotation of a nuclear weapon took place in New Mexico, under the leadership of Robert Oppenheimer who was later named “the father of the atomic bomb” by several historians. This event marked an incredible shift in the history of warfare as this bomb completely revolutionized the pace at which wars could be won, and lost.

After the seeming incapability of the United States army forces at defeating Japanese soldiers who viewed fighting for their nation as a duty, and the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States dropped two atomic bombs, one in Hiroshima followed by another in Nagasaki. Perhaps, this was the deciding moment of WW2, as this scene caused an incredible amount of grief and suffering, and forced the Japanese to call for peace. Two months later on 24 October 1945, the United Nations was established in an effort to prevent further turmoil amongst countries and regulate peace under international terms. The very first resolution of the United Nations General Assembly called for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, and the establishment of a commission to address nuclear weapons. However, it is important to note that although the resolutions of the General Assembly aim to create peaceful standards for all, due to its non-binding nature, countries have the right to neglect the call for action. This means that countries didn’t have to quit their nuclear weapon practices. Therefore, in the subsequent years, and especially during the Cold War, the world witnessed a drastic increase in the number of nuclear weapons throughout the globe. Plus, this wasn’t just a quantitative difference, the bombs got progressively frightening and

destructive over time; while the Hiroshima bomb “Little Boy” emitted 15 kilotons of energy, the Soviet-developed Tsar bomb had the potential to emit 50 megatons which meant approximately three thousand times greater damage. Currently, a total of nine countries are presumed to have a nuclear arsenal. However, not all countries are ratifiers of the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty, and some aren’t *recognized* to have nuclear power. The details of this situation are explained throughout the chair report.

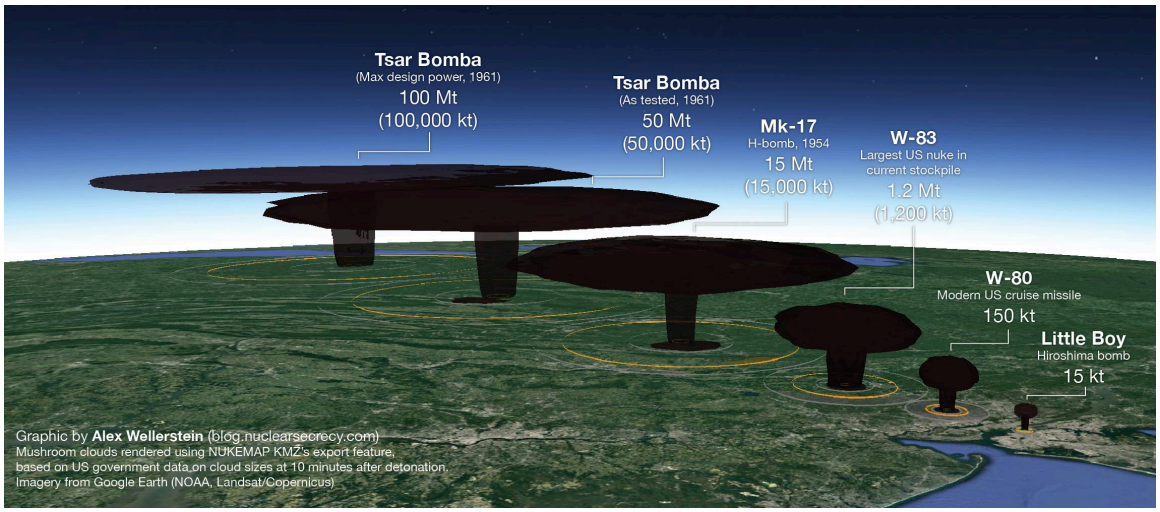


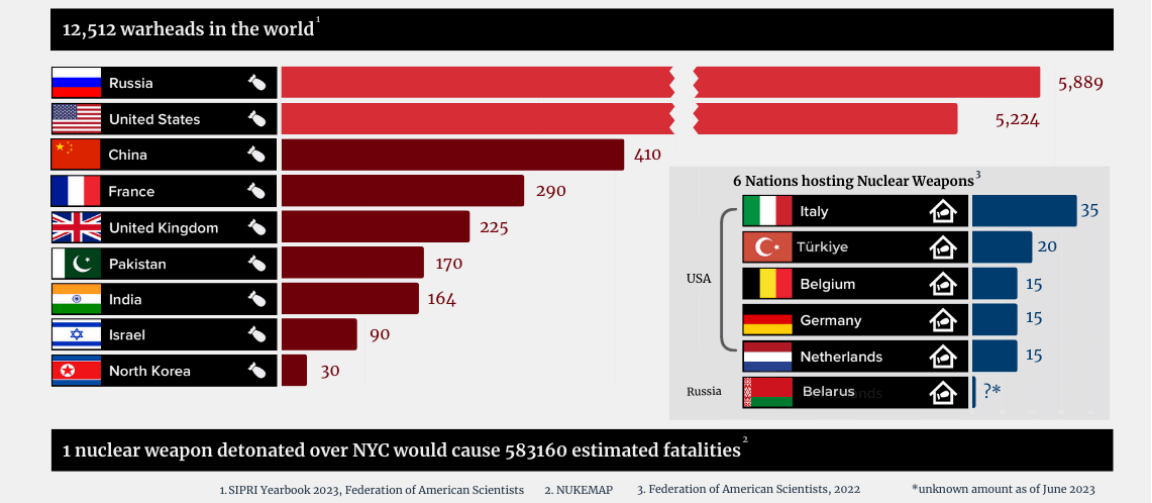

*Image 1: Nuclear Bomb Comparison*

The focus region of TIMUN '24 is Central and South America. For this topic though, there isn’t much subject matter for that region, given that most Latin American countries don’t possess nuclear weapons. Nevertheless, it is important to note the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1961, which increased tensions between the Soviet Union and the United States. The United States had begun to place their nuclear arsenal in countries like Türkiye and Italy which caused the Soviet Union to respond by placing their weaponry in their communist ally Cuba. With this, the countries were at the tip of nuclear destruction, and both sides decided to retreat after a series of diplomatic conversations. On another note, the Latin American countries have all signed The Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (also known as the Treaty of Tlatelolco) in an effort to establish a nuclear buffer zone in the entire continent. Finally, delegates wishing to attempt solving this region’s problems are encouraged to discuss matters pertaining to the history of the area and the continuity of peace.

The theme of TIMUN '24 is "The Uncertain Future of Traditional Industries: Labor in the Digital Economy". Due to its seventy-year existence and important status in politics, the manufacturing and storing of nuclear weapons can be deemed a traditional practice by some member states. The theme of the conference encourages delegates to come up with ideas that would encourage world leaders to give up their nuclear arsenals and prevent possible cases of mass destruction. It is important to keep in mind that the storing and maintenance of nuclear weapons constitute significant economic spending for some countries. Therefore, a sudden transformation toward complete non-proliferation could disrupt global

balances of power and economic sectors worldwide. Delegates are invited to create comprehensive, cohesive, and collaborative solution ideas to ensure a smooth transformation toward disarmament, while also maintaining their countries' interests. The theme emphasizes the need for global leaders to prioritize the transformation of traditional sectors, such as manufacturing, agriculture, and mining, in response to the rise of automation and digital technologies.

## II. Involved Countries and Organizations




*Graph 1: Nuclear Arsenal Comparison*

### United States of America

The United States of America, being the pioneer of the atomic bomb, is the second country with the most nuclear arsenal. It has led several initiatives on the topic of nuclear disarmament, such as the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty (NPT). The United States advocates for global disarmament while also trying to maintain its own national security through a deterrent. It expresses concern for internationally non-compliant member states like North Korea, those who have not ratified the NPT and believes in cooperation throughout the world for total disarmament.

### Russian Federation

The Russian Federation, which inherited the Soviet nuclear arsenal, is the largest possessor of nuclear weapons. Russia, feeling cornered by international organizations like the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) continues to advocate for their possession of nuclear weapons, but stands heavily against their usage unless they are attacked by other states. Russian President Vladimir Putin says, "Russia does not want to use nuclear weapons, understanding the seriousness of the consequences of a conflict with the use of such weapons." It is also important to note that Russia has been at war with Ukraine since 2020, and

appropriate international measures must be applied to ensure that the usage of nuclear weaponry is strictly prohibited throughout the duration of the war.

### Israel

Israel, which is currently in a heated war against the state of Palestine, is presumed to have a limited amount of nuclear arsenal. They have refused to sign the NPT, but are a signatory member to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). They have a secretive nuclear weapon policy, so the United Nations isn't fully aware of Israel's nuclear status. Due to the region's instability, Israel is against disarmament, viewing nuclear weapons as a deterrent, but ultimately supporting non-proliferation efforts. Delegates are encouraged to resolve possible nuclear concerns that may arise during the Israeli-Palestinian War.

### China

China is a ratifying party of the NPT and a signatory to the CTBT. Despite their relatively small arsenal compared to Russia and the United States, they have maintained nuclear modernization efforts. They also have a no-first-use policy, pledging to only use nuclear weapons as a response. Following this path, they encourage a global disarmament of nuclear weapons but are also concerned about other countries' immense arsenals.

### United Kingdom and France

The United Kingdom and France are parties of the NPT and ratifiers of the CTBT. They have a small nuclear arsenal and their main mission is focused on deterrence. They advocate for a multilateral, balanced disarmament between countries.

### North Korea

North Korea is non-compliant with international nuclear weaponry regulation treaties which make them viewed as a threat to international security by several countries. They are eager to maintain their nuclear arsenal due to the mutual distrust between them and countries like the US and South Korea.

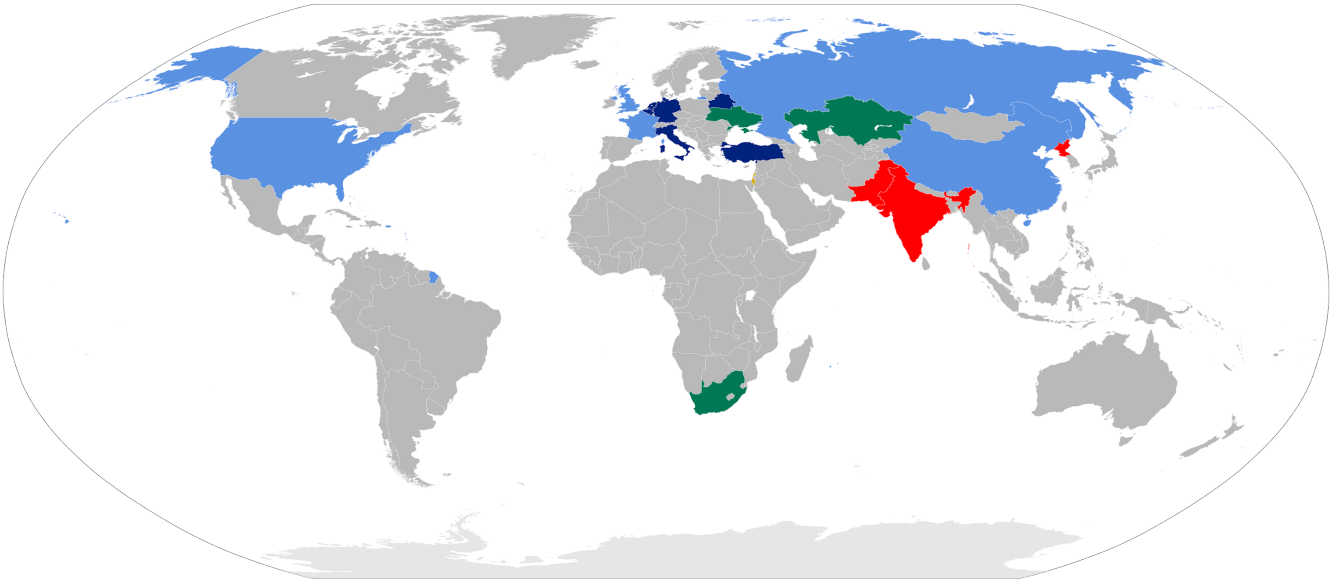
### India

India has developed a significant nuclear arsenal without pertaining to any international treaties. They view their nuclear power as a deterrent against cases of regional unrest, namely with Pakistan; they maintain a no-first-use policy.

### Pakistan

Pakistan has developed nuclear weaponry as a response to India. They view their nuclear power as a deterrent against cases of regional unrest, namely with India; they maintain a first-use policy meaning that they hold the power to attack whenever their national defense is at stake.

Below, there's a regional map of the countries who possess nuclear weapons in their territory.



*Map 1: NPT Ratifying States*

Light blue indicates NPT-designated nuclear weapon states; red indicates other states with nuclear weapons; yellow indicates states presumed to have nuclear weapons; green indicates states formerly possessing nuclear weapons; navy blue indicates NATO or CSTO members that have nuclear weapons under their territory.

## International Atomic Energy Agency

Established upon the proposal of U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower on 29 July 1957, the IAEA promotes safe and secure nuclear technologies. While it fosters a shift from environmentally harmful energy sources like fossil fuels to nuclear power plants, it makes sure countries don't abuse these efforts to produce nuclear weaponry.

## The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)

"The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) is a coalition of non-governmental organizations in one hundred countries promoting adherence to and implementation of the United Nations nuclear weapon ban treaty"(ICAN).

# III. Focused Overview of the Issue

## 1. Subtopic 1 Non-proliferation and Disarmament Efforts

Non-proliferation and disarmament are two different concepts. Non-proliferation invites countries to hamper their production of nuclear weapons while disarmament urges them to get rid of their existing arsenal. The international nonproliferation efforts were initiated through the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty of 1968 after the drastic increase of nuclear weapons throughout the Cold War. According to the United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs, "The 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." It has been ratified by all the P5 members. However, some member states that have nuclear weapons have yet to become a part of the treaty, such as India, Pakistan, North Korea, and Israel. Comprehensive and cooperative steps must be taken to revise the treaty to incentivize these nations to become a party. Most countries' concern during nonproliferation efforts is the mutuality between member states.

Bearing in mind that nuclear proliferation efforts were first ignited by the WW2 and subsequent Cold War between the United States of America and the Soviet Union (USSR) due to the mutual distrust among nations, creating new legislation toward establishing trust has been a top priority for disarmament efforts. In simple terms, countries don't discard their nuclear arsenal if another country isn't doing the same.

Below you may find an infographic from the European Leadership Network:

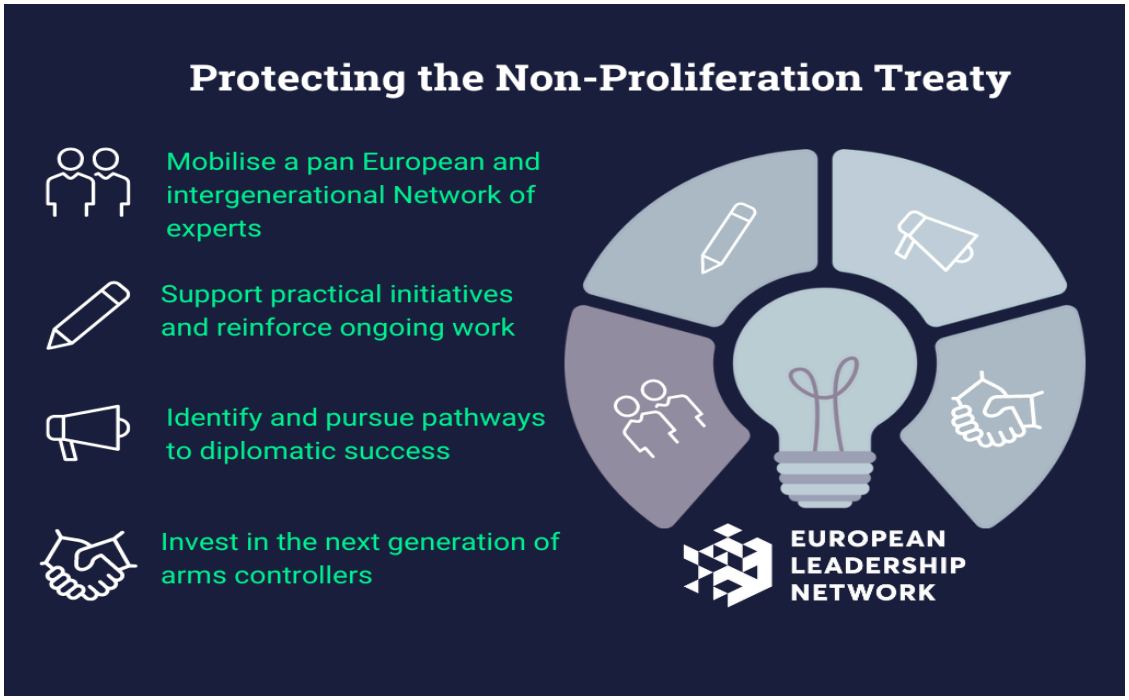


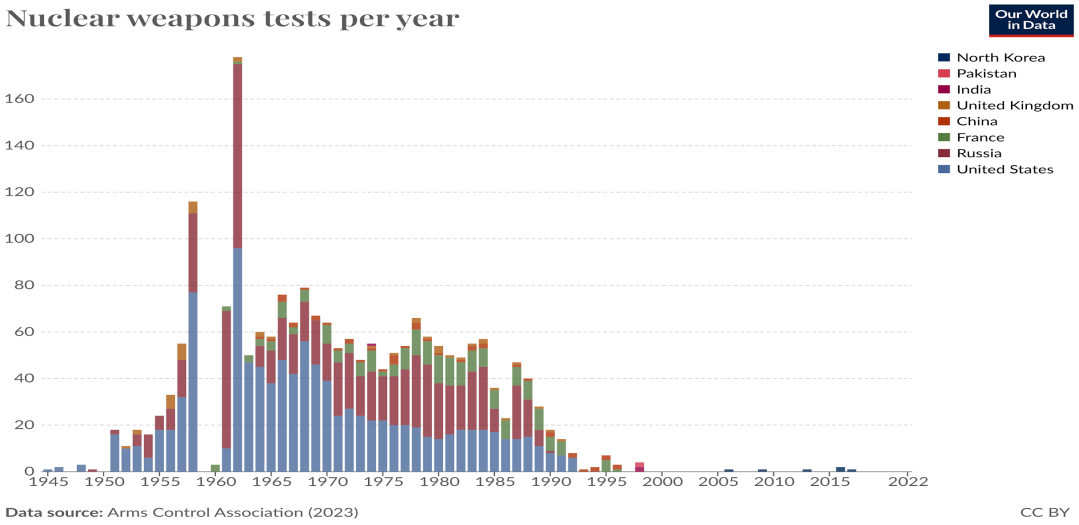

*Image 2: Infographic on the NPT*

## 2. Subtopic 2 Nuclear Tests

Nuclear testing began during World War II, with the United States conducting the first test in New Mexico as part of the Manhattan Project, called “Trinity”. In the following decades with the Cold War and nuclear proliferation efforts, the world saw a drastic increase in nuclear testing by France, China, UK, USA and the Soviet Union. These nations used testing as a means of weapon development and to increase military strength and intimidation. Since then, nuclear testing has evolved, shifting from practical tests to computer-simulated trials; however, countries such as North Korea have defied international norms by going against certain nuclear test ban policies.

Nuclear tests have been conducted in remote areas, and the environmental and radioactive fallouts have often been disregarded by the conductors of the tests. These hazards mainly consist of damages dealt to the ecosystems and local populations. As an example, the Bikini Atoll island (Marshall Islands) saw a test conducted by the United States of America which rendered the island completely uninhabitable due to high radiation levels. Furthermore, the Semipalatinsk Test Site in Kazakhstan, the main nuclear test site of the Soviet Union has exposed approximately 1.5 million people to radiation.

Here’s a graph about the prevalence of nuclear weapons throughout history:




*Graph 2: Nuclear Tests By Year*

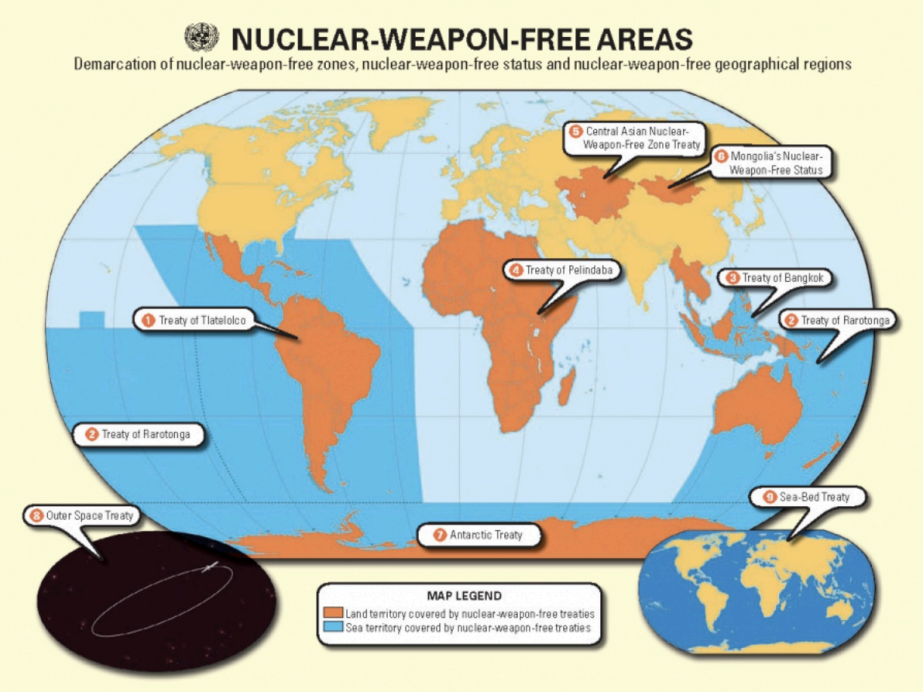
There have been many legal and political attempts to limit the ubiquity of nuclear tests. One of the primary attempts toward decreasing them was the Partial Test Ban Treaty of 1963 which prohibited atmospheric, underwater, and outer space nuclear tests but allowed them to be conducted underground. Unfortunately, this treaty was ineffective in decreasing proliferation and the arms race; although, it decreased the concentration of radioactive particles in the atmosphere by a significant amount. 33 years later, another

treaty called the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) that aimed to ban all nuclear explosions throughout the world was established. However due to many non-ratifiers, its effects have been limited.

### Subtopic 3 Nuclear Weapon-Free Zones

Nuclear Weapon-Free Zones (NWFZs) are regions where countries have collectively agreed to prohibit the production, acquisition, testing, and deployment of nuclear weapons. They are all established through international negotiations and discussions. Key NWFZs include Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco), the South Pacific (Treaty of Rarotonga), Southeast Asia (Bangkok Treaty), Africa (Pelindaba Treaty), and Central Asia (Semipalatinsk Treaty). Together, these zones cover a significant portion of the globe, promoting regional peace and reducing the risk of nuclear conflict. However, many important nations such as Asia and North America have yet to be established as a nuclear buffer zone.

Below, there is a regional map of all the Nuclear Weapon Free Zones:




*Map 2: Nuclear-Free Zones*

Delegates are encouraged to create solutions on how nations could be incentivized to promote free zones in their countries' regions.

## IV. Key Vocabulary

Nuclear Weapon: A nuclear weapon is a weapon of mass destruction that sources its power from the fission or the fusion of atoms. These weapons can cause immense destruction, killings of thousands of people, and long-lasting environmental hazards.

Non-proliferation: Nuclear nonproliferation is the hampering of the production of new nuclear weapons. Most states have a joint effort to sustain nuclear nonproliferation.

Disarmament: Nuclear disarmament is the discarding of existing nuclear arsenal. Many member states refrain from doing this due to their security concerns.

Deterrence: The action of discouraging another potentially harmful action by establishing fear or doubt of the potential consequences.

Nuclear Weapon Free-Zones: “A nuclear-weapon-free zone (NWFZ) is a specified region in which countries commit themselves not to manufacture, acquire, test, or possess nuclear weapons”(Army Control Association).

Ratifier: The ratifier of an international treaty is bound to abide by and apply the standards of the said treaty in their own country.

Signatory: A signatory member of a treaty expresses full support for the subject matter, although not fully complying with the principles due to various reasons.

Nuclear Test: The testing of a nuclear weapon in a remote location.

Nuclear Contamination: The amount of radioactive and environmental hazard caused by the testing or deployment of nuclear weapons.

## V. Important Events & Chronology

For a comprehensive understanding of the historical precedent of the issue, and to make pertinent references to prior events, delegates must be informed of the chronology below.

| Date (Day/Month/Year) | Event |
|---|---|
| August 1942 | Manhattan Project established in the US to develop the first nuclear weapon |
| 16/07/1945 | First nuclear test conducted by the US in New Mexico |
| 06/08/1945 | Atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima by the US, killing 140,000+ |

| | |
|---|---|
| 09/08/1945 | Second atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki, Japan by the US, killing 74,000 by year-end |
| 24/01/1946 | UN calls for atomic weapon elimination in its first General Assembly resolution |
| 29/08/1949 | Soviet Union conducts its first nuclear bomb test |
| 01/11/1952 | US tests the first hydrogen bomb |
| 01/03/1954 | US conducts Bravo hydrogen bomb test, causing radioactive contamination |
| 17/02/1958 | UK Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) formed |
| 01/12/1959 | Antarctic Treaty bans nuclear testing in Antarctica |
| 30/10/1961 | Soviet Union tests the "Tsar Bomba," the largest nuclear bomb ever detonated |
| 16–29/10/1962 | Cuban Missile Crisis: US and USSR near nuclear confrontation |
| 05/08/1963 | Partial Test Ban Treaty signed, banning nuclear tests in certain environments |
| 14/02/1967 | Treaty of Tlatelolco establishes Latin America as a nuclear-weapon-free zone |
| 01/07/1968 | Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) opens for signature |
| 12/06/1982 | One million people rally for nuclear disarmament in New York City |
| 06/08/1985 | South Pacific becomes a nuclear-free zone with the signing of the Rarotonga Treaty |
| 10/12/1985 | Nobel Peace Prize awarded to anti-nuclear doctors' organization |
| 11–12/10/1986 | Reagan and Gorbachev discuss nuclear abolition in Reykjavik |
| 08/12/1987 | Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF) signed by the US and USSR |
| 10/07/1991 | South Africa joins the NPT after dismantling its nuclear weapons |
| 15/12/1995 | Southeast Asia established as a nuclear-weapon-free zone |
| 11/04/1996 | Treaty of Pelindaba signed, creating an African nuclear-weapon-free zone |
| 08/07/1996 | ICJ issues advisory opinion on the general illegality of nuclear weapons |

| | |
|---|---|
| 24/09/1996 | Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) opens for signature |
| 09 October 2006 | North Korea's first nuclear test |
| 08 May 2018 | US withdraws from Iran Nuclear Deal (JCPOA) |
| 05 August 2019 | US withdraws from INF Treaty |
| 21 January 2021 | Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) Enters into Force |

## VI. Past Resolutions and Treaties

1. Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)
    a. Link: Text of the Treaty
    a. Objective: To prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, promote peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and further the goal of disarmament.
    b. Analysis: The treaty has been significant toward non-proliferation efforts of signatory countries; however it has been inadequate for controlling the proliferation efforts of non-signatory members. In addition, it has succeeded in establishing a framework for non-proliferation but has been less effective in achieving complete disarmament due to its primary mandate focusing on the production of nuclear weapons.
    c. Ratification: As of 2024, 189 states are parties to the NPT, with India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea being non-signatories.
2. Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)
    a. Link: CTBT/MSS/RES/1 - 27 November 1996
    b. Objective: To ban all nuclear explosions for both civilian and military purposes.
    c. Analysis: This treaty is comprehensive in its scope but hasn't enter into force due to many non-signatories. It has established a primary framework for nuclear testing efforts but didn't its effectiveness was limited.
    d. Ratification: As of 2024, 185 states have signed, and 170 have ratified the CTBT; however, many key nuclear weapon holding member states aren't ratifiers.
3. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)
    a. Link: Text of the TPNW
    b. Objective: To completely ban nuclear weapons and lead towards their total elimination.
    c. Analysis: It is relatively a new treaty which has been opened for signatures in 2017. The TPNW represents a significant step towards disarmament but lacks participation from nuclear-armed states. It is a significant effort toward a universal disarmament and looking for other signatories to expand its mandate.
    d. Ratification: As of 2024, 92 states have signed, and 68 have ratified the TPNW.

4. UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)
    a. Link: Resolution 1540 Text
    b. Objective: To prevent non-state actors from acquiring nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, and their delivery systems.
    c. Analysis: This Security Council resolution sets global standards of nuclear power and is binding for all nations. However, its implementation and enforcement is limited due to national commitments and capacities.
    d. Ratification: As a Security Council resolution it is binding for all UN members.
5. UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/78/40 (2023)
    a. Link: General Assembly Resolution Text
    b. Objective: Titled "Steps to building a common roadmap towards a world without nuclear weapons," it emphasizes the need for a plan for nuclear disarmament.
    c. The resolution is an important piece of global framework, but lacks cooperation and commitment due to its non-binding nature. It establishes an international consensus, but requires concrete actions from every member state.
    d. Ratification: Adopted by the General Assembly; implementation depends on individual member states.

## VII. Failed Solution Attempts

**Diplomatic Efforts**

There have been several international treaties toward nonproliferation and disarmament efforts, administered by the United Nations. The details of these treaties have been mentioned in the Past Resolutions and Treaties Section of this chair report. First of all, the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons have all been remarkable efforts toward ensuring a global nonproliferation, disarmament and the suspension of nuclear tests. The treaties were significant in ensuring nonproliferation efforts in major nuclear weapon Member States such as all the P5 members of the Security Council. However, it has failed to ensure the nonproliferation of some non-signatories such as Pakistan and India. Furthermore, the scope of disarmament has been limited due to mutual distrust and noncooperation between Member States. In addition, as the graph titled “Nuclear Weapons Tests per Year” in the Focused Overview Section of the chair report, the nuclear tests have undergone a remarkable decrease following these treaties. Nevertheless, it is important to note North Korea being a non-signatory is continuing their nuclear tests, posing immense threats to global radioactivity levels.

Other diplomatic Member State-specific efforts have also been conducted. The Iran Nuclear Deal, for example, has suspended Iran's nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief. There have also been some unsuccessful attempts such as the North Korea negotiations. Although the Six-Party Talks and US-North Korea negotiations aimed to denuclearize North Korea, they have ultimately failed due to mistrust.

## VIII. Possible Solutions

Here is a list of superficial solutions delegates are encouraged to think about before writing their resolutions:

- Encouraging nuclear weapon Member States to ratify the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty through possible revisions of the treaty
- Establishing trust and security among nations through different laws and agreements to endorse a global and international disarmament
- Fostering international organizations such as the International Atomic Agency and/or proposing to expand their mandate over Member States
- Focusing on regionally unstable areas such as the Middle East and the Ukrainian-Russian region to ensure a nuclear-free environment
- Assessing the probability of sanctions and embargoes as a way to deal with non-compliant Member States

## IX. Useful Links

Below are some useful links for further research:

- The History of Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW):
  - https://www.icanw.org/history_of_the_tpnw
- The UNTERM Dictionary:
  - https://unterm.un.org/unterm2/en/
- Office of Disarmament Affairs Treaty Database:
  - https://treaties.unoda.org/
- For further research on the NPT:
  - https://history.state.gov/milestones/1961-1968/npt
  - https://www.iaea.org/topics/non-proliferation-treaty
- Diplomatic Overview and History:
  - https://www.nti.org/analysis/articles/overview-of-the-nuclear-disarmament-resource-collection/
  - https://www.state.gov/creating-an-environment-for-nuclear-disarmament-cend/

- https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues_development-enjeux_developpement/peace_security-paix_securite/nuclear_radiological-nucleaire_radiologique.aspx?lang=eng

Note: It is advised that delegates don't rely on Wikipedia or ChatGPT for information. However, if the information is really hard to find, and they require it urgently, they may still use it by citing their sources.

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