



# Security Council

# STUDY GUIDE

Haileybury Astana

Model United Nations

28 February - 1 March 2020



Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the first Haileybury Astana Model United Nations 2020 (HASMUN)! We are pleased to welcome you to the Security Council. This year's chairs are:-----.

The topics under discussion for the Security Council are:

1. Operational status of nuclear forces [1]
2. Modernization and investments [2]
3. Banning of nuclear tests [3]

The Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It has 15 Members, and each Member has one vote. Under the Charter of the United Nations, all Member States are obligated to comply with Council decisions.

The Security Council takes the lead in determining the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression. It calls upon the parties to a dispute to settle it by peaceful means and recommends methods of adjustment or terms of settlement. In some cases, the Security Council can resort to imposing sanctions or even authorize the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security.

This Background Guide serves as an introduction to the topics for this committee. However, it is not intended to replace individual research. We encourage you to explore your Member State's policies in depth to further your knowledge on these topics. In preparation for the Conference, each delegation will submit a Position Paper by 11:59 p.m. (Nur-Sultan) on the 26th of February 2020.

We want to emphasize that any instances of sexual harassment or discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, or disability will not be tolerated.

If you have any questions concerning your preparation for the committee or the Conference itself, please contact-----

We wish you all the best in your preparations and look forward to seeing you at the Conference!

Chairs-----

## **Introduction**

The United Nations (UN) Charter, in its first article, defines that one of the purposes of the United Nations is “to maintain international peace and security”. The promotion of a more peaceful world was the very reason the United Nations was created in the first place. The proliferation of Nuclear Weapons are a threat to world peace in every way, they are the most dangerous weapons on earth and the dangers from such weapons arise from their very existence.

In response to the devastating 1945 nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, UN General Assembly adopted resolution 1 in 1946, calling for the elimination of atomic weapons. However, between 1945 and 1950, the amount of nuclear weapons in the world increased from 2 to 304, and throughout the Cold War, the number of nuclear weapons increased exponentially, reaching a peak of over 70,000 weapons in 1987. In today's world, there are over 15,000 nuclear weapons in existence, enough to destroy the world many times over. Nonetheless, there are many barriers that International Community faces when trying to stop the proliferation and start the denuclearization of Nations.

States that already have Nuclear weapons keep investing in maintaining and expanding their nuclear arsenals while other States still try to acquire them, motivated by their perception of security or by the desire for symbols of power and control. Even though there are several treaties and conventions that attempt to stop the proliferation of those weapons, the UN desperately needs to find a way to contain and decrease the number of nuclear arsenals worldwide effectively.

## **THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT)**

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. 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. NMUNC 2018 Originally intended as a temporary treaty, the NPT stipulates that 25 years after entry into force, a conference shall be convened to decide whether or not the Treaty shall continue indefinitely or be extended for an additional fixed period or periods. In 1995, this conference was convened, and a package of decisions extend the Treaty indefinitely. Five years later, at the 2000 Review Conference all 187 governments - including the five official nuclear weapon states - agreed to 13 practical steps for the systematic and progressive disarmament of the world's nuclear weapons. At the 2005 Review Conference, states parties could not agree on a final document, and the five week-long conference was considered to be a failure. In 2010, states parties adopted a 64-point action plan to move forward. However, their fulfilment of this action plan, in particular the disarmament requirements, is so far significantly lacking. The nuclear states, especially the United States and Russia, have further violated the Treaty by their efforts to upgrade and diversify their nuclear weapons. The United States has developed the "Reliable Replacement Warhead", a new type of nuclear warhead to extend the viability of its nuclear arsenal. The United States and possibly Russia are also developing tactical nuclear warheads with lower yields, which can be used on the battlefield without producing a great deal of radiation. Despite U.S. President Barack Obama's pledge to reduce and ultimately abolish nuclear weapons, it has emerged that the United States is in the process of developing new categories of nuclear weapons, including B61-12 at a projected cost of 348 billion dollars over the next decade. India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea cannot be regarded as nuclear states and the first three never signed the NPT, and North Korea announced its withdrawal from the NPT in January 2003. Since Article 9 of the NPT defines Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) as those that had manufactured and tested a nuclear device prior to 1 January 1967, it is not possible

for India, Pakistan, Israel or North Korea to be regarded as nuclear weapon states. Iraq initiated a secret nuclear program under Saddam Hussein before the 1991 Persian Gulf War. Iran and Libya have pursued secret nuclear activities in violation of the treaty's terms, and Syria is suspected of having done the same. All those countries are in violation of the NPT, and providing them with nuclear assistance, such as the U.S. agreement with India to supply it with nuclear reactors and 9 LisboMUN Association advanced nuclear technology, constitutes violations of the Treaty. The same applies to U.S. military cooperation with Israel and Pakistan. While, during the Cold War, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) refused to rule out first use of nuclear weapons due to the proximity of Soviet forces to European capitals, this policy has not been revised since the end of the Cold War. Although the NWS have been vigorous in punishing, on a selective basis, the countries that were suspected of developing nuclear weapons, they have not lived up to their side of the bargain to get rid of their nuclear weapons. Still, nuclear non-proliferation successes outnumber failures and dire forecasts decades ago that the world would be home to dozens of states armed with nuclear weapons have not come to pass.

## **OPERATIONAL STATUS OF NUCLEAR FORCES**

The US and Russia continue to maintain about one thousand nuclear warheads in a status such that some can be launched within less than two minutes, others within 10 minutes. Both President Obama and President Medvedev are at all times shadowed by someone with a briefcase from which either president can - in theory anyway - order a nuclear strike.

De-alerting should be pursued within or in connection with US-Russian nuclear arms reduction negotiations, and also should be a topic for wider consideration by states with nuclear arsenals. Ca should be taken in implementing de-alerting measures to guard against worsening crisis stability problems. Urgent work is needed to reduce the risks of accidental or mistaken launch, which is feasible short of more ambitious steps like demating warheads from missiles.

## **MODERNIZATION AND INVESTMENT**

A key step toward multilateral nuclear disarmament is for all nuclear weapon states to cease all research, development, modernization, and production of nuclear weapons.

## BANNING OF NUCLEAR TESTS

Over 2000 nuclear explosions were recorded between July 1945 when the first nuclear bomb was tested by the United States and 1996 when the CTBT banning such explosions was opened for signature. These nuclear tests were undertaken by the United States (1000+), the Soviet Union (700+), France (200+), the United Kingdom and China (45 each). Since the CTBT was opened for signature, three countries have tested nuclear weapons explosive devices: India and Pakistan in 1998, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in 2006, 2009, 2013, 2016 and 2017.

### Historical Timeline

[https://www.icanw.org/nuclear\\_weapons\\_history](https://www.icanw.org/nuclear_weapons_history) - The road to a world free of nuclear weapons

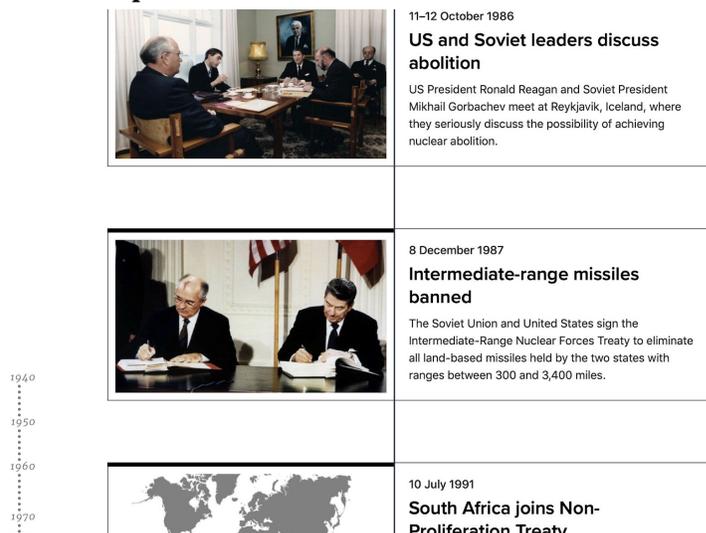


fig.1 - from ICANW.org

### Conclusion

Lack of appropriate negotiating forums, continued investment in nuclear weapons production and modernization, and the lack of participation of NWS in tangible disarmament efforts pose challenges for global nuclear disarmament. Existing frameworks have created practical and normative guidance for Member States, but lack of consistent and universal enforcement limits their effectiveness in restricting actions of NWS. Building consensus among Member States to create new frameworks and

mechanisms should be considered and include all NWS to ensure the universality of any action taken.

## **Terminology**

**P5:** The permanent five members of the Security Council who never rotate their seat. These are China, France, Russia, The United Kingdom and the United States.

**Veto:** When a P5 country votes against a draft resolution or motion. If a P5 vetoes it automatically fails.

**Procedural Voting:** Voting on something that does not impact the world outside. A motion for a moderated caucus is an example of a procedural vote.

**Substantive Voting:** When the vote does have real-world impact. The vote on the draft resolution (which if passed get passed into law and has real-world outcomes) is a substantive vote. At some conferences, the P5 can turn a procedural vote substantive. Once a substantive item is on the table it can be vetoed.

**Binding:** A UN resolutions that legally force nations to abide. Only the Security Council resolutions are binding, while resolutions passed by the other UN bodies are not. (Other non-UN bodies may also have binding or partially binding agreements or resolutions)

## **Questions to discuss:**

How can the international community encourage all states to accede to the NPT?

How can states balance modernization programs with their disarmament obligations?

What are some potential challenges in determining the scope and verification measures for a FMCT, and how can they be addressed?

What diplomatic solutions can be pursued to support the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula?

Delegates are encouraged to research further into the topics, as this study guide is a mere summary into the subject matter. Not all aspects to vaccinations are covered within this

brief overview, and delegates are welcome to put forward additional issues that can be tackled in the resolutions.

Best of luck!

### **Links**

[1], [2] <https://www.un.org/en/conf/npt/2010/pdf/lawyerscommittee.pdf>

[3]

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/unoda-web/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/CTBT-Fact-Sheet-July2019.pdf>