



2019
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Welcome to MariMUN 2019!

Dear Future Problem Solvers, Peacebuilders, Revolution Combatants, Deceased but Not Deceased Leaders, Delegates,

It is with great pleasure that I present to you what is to be a weekend filled with unending drama, chaotic debates, unexpected friendships, and great memories. MariMUN 2019 offers you some of the most unique, well-staffed, and thrilling crisis committees our conference has ever seen. Catering to both the first timers and the seasoned veterans, MariMUN crisis will serve as a gateway to unleash your innermost creativity, wit and perception. If you've made it this far into my letter, I applaud you! If you find me in the hallways, do come and tell me that you've read my letter, and I might just give you a high five.

On a more serious note, do not restrain yourself. MariMUN is a conference for learning and for friendships. Be yourself, be your character, and rule the world in your own unique fashion.

Best,

David
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Cao
Crises

*Marianopolis Model United Nations 2019***TOPIC 1: NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION****INTRODUCTION**

In a post-Cold War context, it would seem as though the concern over the threat of nuclear weapons has died down. While on a global scale, nations no longer live in an era of divisive conflict cultivating apocalyptic fear of the potential threat of nuclear warfare, it is crucial to recognize that this threat is not on the decline. Rather, in a world where both physical and virtual borders have become increasingly permeable and where radical Islamist terrorism is on the rise, if fallen into the wrong hands, nuclear weapons could cause unprecedented and horrific global damage.

A HISTORY ON NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY**MILITARY USAGE**

Nuclear weapons were first created as a form of military technology during World War II¹. In August 1942, the United States established the Manhattan Project, and in July 1945 had its earliest nuclear tests performed, marking the birth of the first ever nuclear weapon and the beginning of the nuclear age. In August 1945, the US dropped two nuclear bombs made from uranium-235 and plutonium-239 onto the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, thus introducing the immense and monstrous power of the atomic bomb to the world. Since then, the threat of nuclear terrorism has only continued to grow. Over the course of the next decades, many nations proceeded to conduct their own nuclear tests, starting with the Soviet Union (1949) and followed by the United Kingdom (1952), France (1960), China (1964) and India (1970), among other countries. States scrambled in an arms race to obtain this unprecedented weapon of mass destruction while tensions between the Western American bloc and the Eastern Soviet bloc began to build. This resulted in the Cold War, which lasted from 1947 to the downfall of the Soviet Union in 1991. In 1962, a tense stalemate formally known as the Cuban Missile Crisis occurred when the US discovered Soviet missiles in Cuba, which brought the two hegemonic powers to the brink of nuclear war². Since this incident of global alarm, there have been countless treaties enacted in an international effort to deter – and ultimately ban – the use of nuclear weapons. However, despite these efforts, many nations continue to develop their technologies in fear of others doing the same.

* “Safeguards to Prevent Nuclear Proliferation.” World Nuclear Association. April 2016. Accessed January 15, 2017. <http://www.world-nuclear.org/information-library/safety-andsecurity/non-proliferation/safeguards-to-prevent-nuclear-proliferation.aspx>.

* “Nuclear weapons timeline | ICAN.” International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). Accessed January 15, 2017. 1. <http://www.icanw.org/the-facts/the-nuclear-age/>

CIVILIAN USAGE

It is important to note that over the course of time, the attention placed on nuclear material has shifted from its originally military applications to its civil utilization, most notably in terms of the development of nuclear energy. This form of energy is virtually unlimited, thereby making it an appealing solution in a context where the limitations posed by fossil fuels have become an increasingly pressing concern. That being said, the development and usage of nuclear energy has the potential to compromise global security. Thus, in our modern era, there is unsurprisingly much debate regarding the extent to which nuclear power generation can contribute to the threat of nuclear weapons³. Moreover, as terrorism – carried out by groups such as ISIS and Al-Qaeda, among others – has become the leading threat to security worldwide, there is much anxiety concerning what would happen should nuclear weapons fall in the hands of such organizations. Indeed, this could have an unparalleled and catastrophic impact this would have on an international scale.

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION AND THE NPT:

Nuclear proliferation is a term used to describe the spread of nuclear weapons, fissionable material and weapons-applicable nuclear technology and information to nations that are not recognized as “Nuclear Weapon States” by the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)⁴. Because the threat of nuclear weapons arises from their very existence, limiting nuclear proliferation – and ultimately disarmament – is the most effective way of protection from the dangers of this force. However, achieving this goal is a gradual process and can evidently be challenging.

The United Nations has strived for the eradication of nuclear weapons ever since it was first created. In 1946, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution that called for the total elimination of nuclear weapons and established a commission to oversee issues related to problems that had been caused by the discovery of atomic energy⁵. However, this proved to be ineffective, as the Soviet Union tested its first nuclear bomb in August 1949, followed by numerous other nations. While some states

³ “Safeguards to Prevent Nuclear Proliferation.” World Nuclear Association. April 2016. Accessed January 15, 2017. <http://www.world-nuclear.org/information-library/safety-andsecurity/non-proliferation/safeguards-to-prevent-nuclear-proliferation.aspx>.

⁴ “Nuclear Proliferation Law and Legal Definition | USLegal, Inc.” US Legal. Accessed January 15, 2017. <https://definitions.uslegal.com/n/nuclear-proliferation/>.

⁵ “WMD – UNODA.” United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. Accessed January 15, 2017. <https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/>.

continued to perform tests on nuclear material despite international scrutiny, others denounced the possession of such materials, claiming that the harms outweighed the benefits insofar as they would threaten and hamper national security rather than improve it⁶. As a result, a series of disarmament campaigns, bans and treaties took place, starting with the campaign in the United Kingdom (1958), the ban in Latin America (1967) and eventually the signing of the Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1968.

The NPT

Although the nuclear non-proliferation regime is much more than just the NPT, this treaty is definitely the leading global protocol. The NPT was a critical turning point in the nuclear age as it aimed to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy while furthering the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament. The NPT, at its core, was an agreement among the five nuclear weapon states (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States) and nations who were interested in nuclear technology. Essentially, the deal outlined that guidance would be offered to nations who would not use atomic energy for military purposes while nations who refused to sign on to the NPT were excluded from international cooperation or trade involving nuclear technology⁷. The treaty was opened for signature in 1968, entered into force in 1970 and was extended indefinitely in May 1995. To this day, it is the sole binding multilateral agreement with the goal of disarmament to be signed by the nuclear-weapon states.

At present, there are 191 nations (including all five declared Nuclear Weapons States) included in the NPT, making it the most ratified disarmament agreement in history⁸. The main countries that have not signed onto this treaty are Israel, India, Pakistan and North Korea. Because these are all states that have had mature nuclear programs since the 1970s, they are unable to join without renouncing and abolishing their programs. That being said, in 2008, special exemptions were made for India and its consequent ratification of the Additional Protocol in 2014 put it in a similar position as the five NWS.

In the 1960s, it was believed that there would be close to thirty nuclear weapons states by the end of the century. However, that estimate turned out to be widely inaccurate; there were only eight. This was majorly due to the success of the NPT and its incentive structures, which encouraged the advancement of civil nuclear power while deterring weapon development. A sweeping majority of nations worldwide take part in projects

⁶ “Safeguards to Prevent Nuclear Proliferation.” World Nuclear Association. April 2016. Accessed January 15, 2017. <http://www.world-nuclear.org/information-library/safety-andsecurity/non-proliferation/safeguards-to-prevent-nuclear-proliferation.aspx>.

⁷ “Safeguards to Prevent Nuclear Proliferation.” World Nuclear Association. April 2016. Accessed January 15, 2017. <http://www.world-nuclear.org/information-library/safety-andsecurity/non-proliferation/safeguards-to-prevent-nuclear-proliferation.aspx>.

⁸ “Nuclear Proliferation Law and Legal Definition | USLegal, Inc.” US Legal. Accessed January 15, 2017. <https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/npt/>.

that aim to contain the spread of nuclear weapons. The international safeguards regime has successfully prevented the diversion of fissile material into weapons since the 1970s²⁰.

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)

The NPT established that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), a United Nations special agency, would be responsible for regulating and verifying the actions of nations in compliance with the NPT through inspection²¹. The agency was created in 1957 as a response to the fears generated by the discovery of nuclear technology. The goals of the IAEA are two-fold: firstly, to promote, and secondly, to control the usage of the atom, as outlined in Article II of their Statute: “The Agency shall seek to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world. It shall ensure, so far as it is able, that assistance provided by it or at its request or under its supervision or control is not used in such a way as to further any military purpose.”²² Over time, as political and historical contexts have evolved, so has the role of the organization. Today, the IAEA’s mission can be broken down into three main categories: “science and technology, safety and security, and safeguards and verification.” The IAEA establishes regulation concerning nuclear material, encourages the exchange of technical information among member states and takes upon the role of an intermediary for material transactions. Furthermore, it works towards fostering the research and peaceful development of nuclear energy²³. According to the World Nuclear Association, the agency’s alert system relies on:

1. Material Accountability: tracking all inward and outward transfers and the flow of materials in any nuclear facility. This includes sampling and analysis of nuclear material, on-site inspections, review and verification of operating records.
2. Physical Security: restricting access to nuclear materials at the site of use.

²⁰“Safeguards to Prevent Nuclear Proliferation.” World Nuclear Association. April 2016. Accessed January 15, 2017.

<http://www.world-nuclear.org/information-library/safety-and-security/nonproliferation/safeguards-to-prevent-nuclear-proliferation.aspx>.

²¹ “Safeguards to Prevent Nuclear Proliferation.” World Nuclear Association. April 2016. Accessed January 15, 2017. <http://www.world-nuclear.org/information-library/safety-andsecurity/non-proliferation/safeguards-to-prevent-nuclear-proliferation.aspx>.

²² “History | International Atomic Energy Agency.” Accessed January 15, 2017. <https://www.iaea.org/about/overview/history>.

²³International Atomic Energy Agency.” United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination. Accessed January 15, 2017. <http://www.unsceb.org/content/iaea>.

3. Containment and Surveillance: use of seals, automatic cameras and other instruments to detect unreported movement or tampering with nuclear materials, as well as spot checks on-site⁹.

The IAEA is also accountable for ensuring that multilateral treaties regarding the usage and safety of nuclear energy are followed properly. In addition to the NPT, these treaties include the Treaty of Tlatelolco (the Latin American Nuclear Weapon Free Zone), the Treaty of Pelindaba (the African Nuclear Weapon Free Zone), the Treaty of Bangkok (the ASEAN Nuclear Weapon Free Zone), the Treaty of Rarotonga (the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone) and the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon Free Zone (CANWFZ)

Treaty. Although the IAEA has the power to make recommendations to nation-states, it does not have the authority to act as a strict regulatory body, as is the case for any intergovernmental agency.

STATE ACTORS

Even though the NPT is the most prominent international treaty on the subject of nuclear weapons, there is an entire scope of safeguards that are currently in place. These include numerous other treaties, conventions as well as both multilateral and bilateral arrangements that cover security and physical protection, export controls, nuclear testbans and fissile material production cut-offs. The most crucial mechanism of the safeguards regime is international political pressure and how individual nations perceive their strategic long-term security in their geographic location. Thus, the balance to achieving a solution to the threat of nuclear weapons is more political-heavy than technical-heavy. International pressure serves more or less as a forceful and effective deterrent to the procurement of nuclear weapons, but such pressures do have constraints, as it can be seen by the case of North Korea. The major dangers associated with stateactor nuclear proliferation come mostly from either countries that have not signed on to the NPT and thus have nuclear materials that are not overseen or regulated by the international community, or alternatively, from those who have joined but ignore their treaty commitments.

INDIA

India is an example of a non-NWS that is in possession of nuclear weaponry. In May 1974, India exploded its first nuclear device and was consequently denied nuclear technology by the West. However, despite the foreign isolation, in the ensuing decades, their military nuclear program only continued to grow – albeit gradually – and eventually came to light in 1998 when the country performed numerous explosive tests. This advancement was due to the fact that there was overwhelming domestic support for the

⁹“Safeguards to Prevent Nuclear Proliferation.” World Nuclear Association. April 2016. Accessed January 15, 2017. <http://www.world-nuclear.org/information-library/safety-andsecurity/non-proliferation/safeguards-to-prevent-nuclear-proliferation.aspx>.

development of these programs because of the country's distrust of its neighbors, China and Pakistan, that were both in possession of nuclear technology. Therefore, the country was unwilling to sign onto the already established protocols of the NPT, which would have forced them to disarm all nuclear materials that were not being used for civilian purposes. Thus, from the point of the NPT, the only option was to give India a status similar to those of the NWS, which resulted in India's ratification of the Additional Protocol. India's history with nuclear weaponry is a successful example of effective deterrence caused by international pressure and hence, how politically motivated incentives can be useful¹⁰.

IRAN

Iran joined the NPT in 1970 and has also signed the safeguards agreement of the Additional Protocol, although it has not ratified the latter. The issue with Iran's nuclear program began in 2002 when it was discovered that they had been operating previously undeclared nuclear facilities, which quickly became the subject of an inquiry by the IAEA. During this investigation, the IAEA unearthed inconsistencies in the country's reports to the agency and hence, started questioning whether Iran had violated the safeguards agreement of the NPT. A report in November 2003 proved that Iran had in fact been responsible for quietly developing a series of key military nuclear technologies over the course of twenty-two years. In 2005, the IAEA and United Nations Security Council called for Iran to abandon and suspend "all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities", but the country did not stop furthering such projects. In 2007, the United Nations Security Council adopted a number of sanctions on Iran, attempting to use international pressure to stop its nuclear activities. For years, this proved to be ineffective as Iran refused to concede to the IAEA's demands. Fortunately, in November 2010, a Joint Statement on a Framework for Cooperation was signed with the IAEA, which stated that Iran would cooperate and respect verification activities undertaken by the IAEA in order to resolve present and past problems. Finally, in July 2015, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action was signed after years of tense negotiations. Under this agreement, Iran accepted that they would not enrich uranium above the 3.67% level and would reduce its stockpile of low-enriched uranium. This agreement was implemented in January 2016 when the IAEA checked that Iran had complied with all of its nuclear commitments¹¹.

NORTH KOREA

¹⁰ "India, China and the Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT ...)" World Nuclear Association. Accessed January 15, 2017. <http://www.world-nuclear.org/information-library/safety-and-security/nonproliferation/india,-china-npt.aspx>.

¹¹ "Nuclear Power in Iran." World Nuclear Association. Accessed January 15, 2017. <http://www.world-nuclear.org/information-library/country-profiles/countries-g-n/iran.aspx>.

North Korea has also had a long-standing history of non-compliance with the NPT and has subsequently been brought to the attention of international security. The country was originally a signatory of the treaty, but intended to withdraw in 1993 after it refused to let the IAEA inspect two of their sites. In 2002, North Korea was found to have been illegally enriching uranium for military usage. Despite a countless quantity of sanctions and an overwhelming amount of international pressure, North Korea is determined to resist foreign influence in order to continue the development of its weapons. Today, the country has essentially been ostracized by the international community (with the exception of China) and has carried on with its tests, including missile and rocket launches. For these reasons, North Korea is seen as the most threatening nuclear state actor in modern times.¹²

NON-STATE ACTORS: MILITANT GROUPS

As terrorism has replaced conventional warfare, it is crucial not only to consider state actors, but also non-state actors and the potential danger the latter pose should they acquire nuclear weapons. Terrorist organizations such as Al-Qaeda and ISIS have actively been on the pursuit of these weapons. With the awful acts of heinous violence that have already been caused by these groups, one can only imagine the horrific consequences that would ensue should they procure a small crude weapon from the black market. For this reason, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons is of utmost importance, particularly in countries that do not adhere to the NPT and thus, where nuclear technology is largely unregulated by the IAEA. While no terrorist organizations have had access to such weapons up to date, the potential of such an event occurring is an ever-increasing threat. In fact, in October 2015, the BBC reported that Moldovan authorities were cooperating with the FBI to block four attempts of gangs selling clandestine radioactive material to ISIS¹³. Countries who are especially vulnerable to such threats include Pakistan, a nation that is not a signatory of the NPT and that has unstable terrorist insurgencies – namely from Al-Qaeda – along its borders. Although there is an international concerted effort to stop the growth of these groups and their procurement of nuclear weapons, the threat is only expected to increase in the next years. For now, the biggest risks have to do with terrorist attacks on already existing nuclear facilities, theft of radioactive material during weapons delivery and the massmassacring effects this would have for civilians.

12 “World Nuclear Association.” Nuclear Proliferation Case Studies - World Nuclear Association. Accessed January 15, 2017. <http://www.world-nuclear.org/information-library/safety-andsecurity/non-proliferation/appendices/nuclear-proliferation-case-studies.aspx>.

13 “Nuclear Smuggling Deals 'thwarted' in Moldova.” BBC News. 2015. Accessed August 14, 2016. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-34461732>.

CONCLUSION

Since its inception during the Manhattan Project, nuclear technology has continued to expand through scientific research and experimentation and has grown into an incredibly multifaceted technology. Although it was initially invented for purposes of war, it has progressed to become a promising source of alternative energy. Due to its unruly past and the growing threat of terrorism, the stance of nations on the usage of nuclear technology is very polarizing and continues to shift drastically. However, the development of nuclear energy and the promotion of international safety may not necessarily be mutually exclusive outcomes, and with non-proliferation solutions that remain to be explored by delegates, it could be possible for the technology to be used strictly for civilian purposes while minimizing the threat to global security.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. To what extent and in what ways does nuclear power generation contribute to or alleviate the risk from nuclear weapons?
2. How has nuclear terrorism evolved and how will continue to do so?
3. What measures can be taken to increase security of nuclear material?
4. In what ways could the incentive structures of the NPT be altered so that nonratified countries will want to sign it?
5. What is your country's stance on nuclear power?
6. How can the international community best ensure the non-proliferation and eventual disarmament of nuclear weapons?

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