DISEC

Disarmament and International Security

VANMUN 2023

“The threat of nuclear weapons on international peace and security”

Letter from the EB

Greetings! The chairpersons of DISEC would like to express our greatest gratitude in choosing to delegate in this committee. DISEC is a very important committee in the United Nations, and we sincerely hope that the debate is very fine, and more than anything, each and every one of you to have fun. Just a few words, I would like the committee to be delegate friendly, and no experienced MUNners to take advantage of the beginners. There are some that came to win, and some that came to experience, and see what a Model United Nation is. In this committee we will be discussing about nuclear warfare with respect to international peace and security, so I would like all delegates to read up on the country foreign policy statement, and be thorough with it. Please have fun and also debate to your fullest. I hope you guys have a fruitful time over the course of these two days.

Signing off,

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Committee overview

The Disarmament and International Security Committee was first created in the United Nations Charter, under Chapter IV, with intentions of advocating, debating, and solving matters of international disarmament and security. Out of six General Assembly committees, DISEC is also known as the First Committee in the United Nations. Under the United Nation's Charter Article 9, all 193 UN members are automatically eligible as representatives in DISEC's body and have equal vote. It is important to note that DISEC, while it deals with important security issues, cannot specifically mandate individual state action, sanctions, or armed intervention. DISEC however can recommend all of these actions to the Security Council.

DISEC has had a few landmark resolutions, including the very first General Assembly resolution "Establishment of a Commission to Deal with the Problems Raised by the Discovery of Atomic Energy" in 1946.

In addition, DISEC has passed the very first General Assembly resolution that was cosponsored by all the Member States of the time. This resolution, adopted in 2001, reaffirmed all resolutions on the situation in Afghanistan and confirmed that the United Nations would play an important role in the country. It also called for the establishment of a transitional administration leading to the formation of a new government.

Keep in mind that all resolutions passed by this committee are non-binding resolutions

And must be formatted as recommendations to the 193 nations in the committee. Furthermore, given its direct association with the United Nations General Assembly (being

A subsidiary organ as authorized under Article 22), it retains the powers and responsibilities of the General Assembly as outlined in Chapter IV of the Charter of the United Nations, including:

- Article 10 "mak[ing] recommendations to the Members of the United Nations or to the Security Council or to both on any such questions or matters."
- Article 11(2) "discuss[ing] any questions relating to the maintenance of international peace and security brought before it..."
- Article 11(3) "call[ing] the attention of the Security Council to situations which are likely to endanger international peace and security."
- Article 14 "recommend[ing] measures for the peaceful adjustment of any situation..."

As delegates at VANMUN 2023, you should keep in mind these values of international cooperation and the promotion of world peace as you work to craft solutions to this issue, which is extremely important to the promotion of international security.

Delegate Requirements

1) A strong knowledge on their country's foreign policy statement

2) Information regarding the delegates' country's nuclear policy. Timeline of what their country did in specific.

3) Timeline of all nuclear war till date

4) Enough evidence to support your argument

5) Sources to back an argument (BBC, Al Jazeera, CNN etc)

Introduction to the Agenda

“The threat of nuclear weapons on international peace and security”

Nuclear weapons are the most dangerous weapons on earth. One can destroy a whole city, potentially killing millions, and jeopardizing the natural environment and lives of future generations through its long-term catastrophic effects. The dangers from such weapons arise from their very existence.

Nuclear weapons are, simply, the most indiscriminately inhumane weapons ever invented, and the only ones capable of destroying life on this planet as we know it. There is only one other global policy issue remotely comparable in terms of its impact on planetary survivability, and that is climate change: but nuclear bombs can kill us a lot faster than CO2.

Nuclear weapons pose a direct and constant threat to people everywhere. Far from keeping the peace, they breed fear and mistrust among nations. These ultimate instruments of terror and mass destruction have no legitimate military or strategic utility, and are useless in addressing any of today’s real security threats, such as terrorism, climate change, extreme poverty, overpopulation and disease. While many thousands of nuclear weapons have been dismantled since the end of the cold war, the justifications for maintaining them remain largely unchanged.

Nations still cling to the misguided idea of “nuclear deterrence”, when it is clear that nuclear weapons only cause national and global insecurity. There have been many documented instances of the near-use of nuclear weapons as a result of miscalculation or accidents.

The existence of nuclear weapons has a strong impact on the environment. Nuclear war would mean a climate disruption with devastating consequences. The world would fall under a nuclear winter, be subject to a deadly global famine and exacerbated effects of global warming.

The socio-economic impacts would also be terrible, with developing countries and marginalized groups the ones that will suffer the most. Nuclear weapons are also a vacuum for financial support: in their development, maintenance and dismantlement. This is money that could be better spent funding assets such as green technologies and health facilities.

Key Terms

Atomic Bomb- A bomb that derives its destructive power from the rapid release of nuclear energy by fission of heavy atomic nuclei, causing damage through heat, blast, and radioactivity.

CTBT-The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is a multilateral treaty to ban nuclear weapons test explosions and any other nuclear explosions, for both civilian and military purposes, in all environments.

First use-

No first use- A pledge or policy wherein a nuclear power formally refrains from the use of nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction (WMD) in warfare, except for as a second strike in retaliation to an attack by an enemy power using WMD.

FMCT-The Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty (FMCT) is a proposed international treaty to prohibit the further production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other explosive devices

NAM-The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) is a forum of 120 countries that are not formally aligned with or against any major power bloc.

NPT-An 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.

NFZ- No flight zone (NFZ) is a territory or area established by a military power over which certain aircraft are not permitted to fly. Such zones are usually set up in an enemy power's territory during a conflict and usually intend to prohibit the enemy's military aircraft from operating in the region.

NSA- The National Security Agency (NSA) is a federal government intelligence agency that is part of the United States Department of Defense and is managed under the authority of the director of national intelligence (DNI).

Nuclear weapon- An explosive device that derives its destructive force from nuclear reactions, either fission (fission bomb) or a combination of fission and fusion reactions (thermonuclear bomb), producing a nuclear explosion.

Nuclear yield- The energy released in the detonation of a nuclear weapon, measured in terms of the kilotons or megatons of trinitrotoluene required to produce the same energy release.

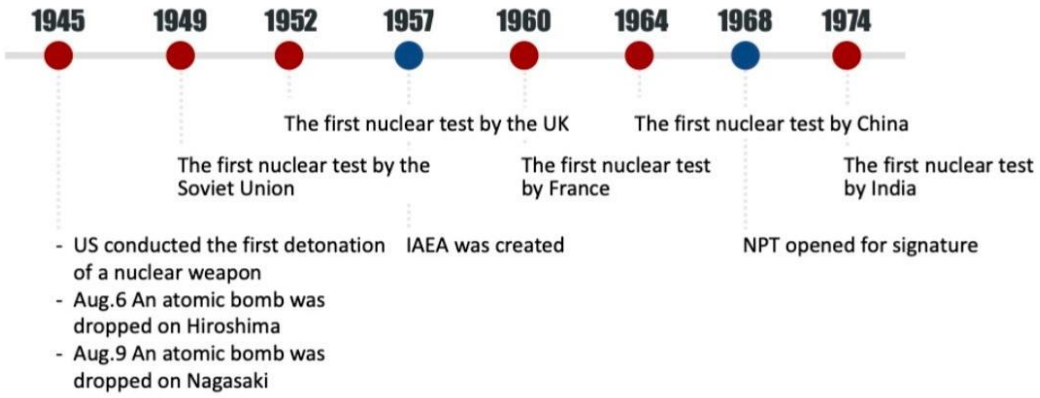
ICBM-An intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) is a ballistic missile with a range greater than 5,500 kilometers, primarily designed for nuclear weapons delivery (delivering one or more thermonuclear warheads).

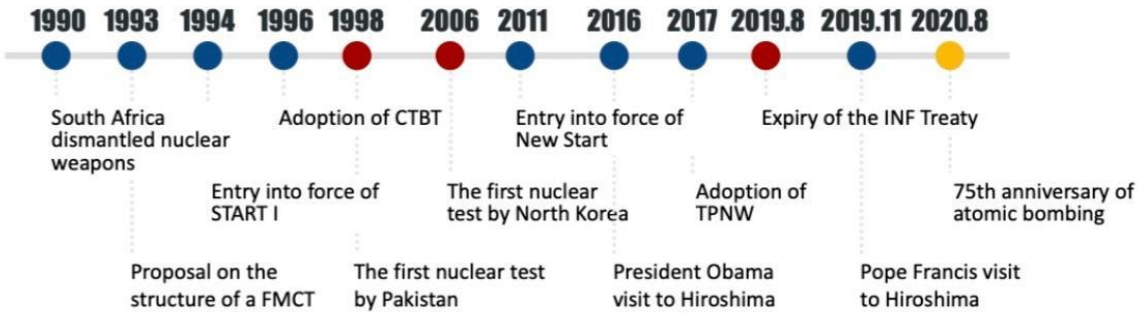
Fallout- Radioactive particles that are carried into the atmosphere after a nuclear explosion and gradually fall back as dust or in precipitation.

SLBM- A submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) is a ballistic missile capable of being launched from submarines. Modern variants usually deliver multiple independently targetable reentry vehicles (MIRVs), each of which carries a nuclear warhead and allows a single launched missile to strike several targets.

SSBN or SSB- Sub-surface ballistic nuclear is a submarine capable of deploying submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs) with nuclear warheads.

History and Status of nuclear warheads





1945: The US conducted the first detonation of a nuclear weapon

August 6, 1945: An atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima The Industrial Promotion Hall after the bomb was dropped (today's Atomic Bomb Dome)

August 9, 1945: An atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki

1949: The Soviet Union conducted the first nuclear test

On August 29, 1949, the Soviet Union conducted the test at the Semipalatinsk test site (Kazakhstan). After its independence from the Soviet Union, Kazakhstan closed the site on August 29, 1991. August 29 is the International Day against Nuclear Test of the United Nations.

1952: The UK conducted the first nuclear test

1957: International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was created

IAEA was established to promote safe, secure and peaceful nuclear technologies and prevent diversion of nuclear energy to any military purpose.

1960: France conducted the first nuclear test

1964: China conducted the first nuclear test

1968: The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) opened for signature

During the cold war, the negotiation toward the abolition of nuclear weapons was stagnated. Moreover, the number of countries which sought to acquire nuclear weapons or had potential to produce nuclear weapons increased. Thus, it is believed that the prevention of spreading nuclear weapons leads to abolish nuclear weapons. NPT opened for signature in 1968 and entered into force in 1970. The three pillars of NPT are nuclear non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament and peaceful use of nuclear power.

(https://hiroshimaforpeace.com/en/npt/)

1974: India conducted the first nuclear test

1990: South Africa dismantled nuclear weapons

South Africa have built nuclear weapons in 1970s and 1980s and voluntarily dismantled them. South Africa ratified NPT in 1991.

1993: U.S. president Clinton called for Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT)

FMCT aims to prohibit the further production of fissile material including high-enriched uranium and plutonium for nuclear weapons in order not to increase the number of nuclear weapons. In the “Decision 2: Principles and objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament” adopted at the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference, participating countries agreed on “the immediate commencement and early conclusion of negotiations on a nondiscriminatory and universally applicable convention banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.” However, substantive negotiations have not yet commenced.

1994: The 1st Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START I) was entered into force

START I was a bilateral treaty between the US and the Soviet Union. The treaty established an aggregate limit of 1,600 deployed intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs) and heavy

bombers for each party within seven years after entry into force. As a result, the number of strategic nuclear warheads decreased to about 60% of cold era.

1996: Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) was adopted

CTBT prohibits “any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion” anywhere in the world including the atmosphere, underwater and space. As of December 2019, 168 of the 184 signatories have deposited their instruments of ratification of the CTBT. Among the 44 states listed in Annex2 of the CTBT, whose ratification is a prerequisite for the treaty’s entry into force, five states (China, Egypt, Iran, Israel and the US) have signed but not ratified, and three (India, North Korea and Pakistan) have not even signed. Thus, the treaty has not yet entered into force.

1998: Pakistan conducted the first nuclear test

2006: North Korea conducted the first nuclear test

2011: New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) was entered into force

New START is a bilateral agreement between the US and Russia. Under the treaty, both parties must meet the Treaty’s central limits on strategic arms by 2018. The Treaty is set to expire in February 2021 and we pay attention to the future bilateral arms control agreement

2016: The US President Obama visited Hiroshima (He is the first sitting US President to visit Hiroshima)

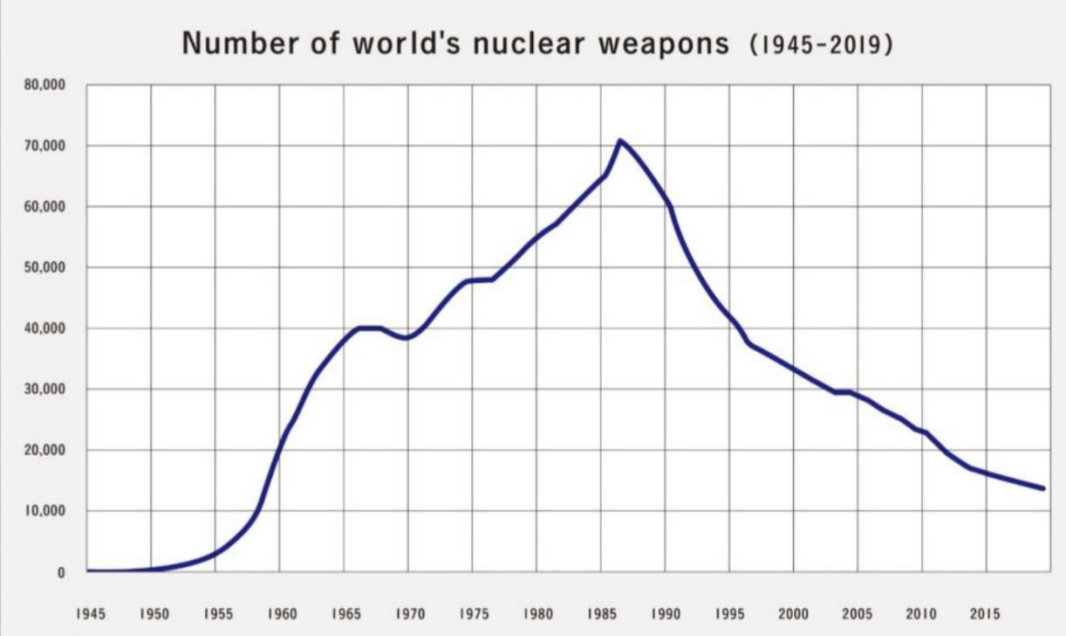
Hiroshima Prefecture has invited political leaders to visit Hiroshima in order to understand the realities of the atomic bombing. On May 27, 2016, the US president Barack Obama visited Hiroshima.
(https://hiroshimaforpeace.com/en/obama/)

2017: The Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) was adopted

August 2019: The Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF Treaty) was expired

The INF treaty was the first agreement in the field of nuclear disarmament to eliminate a certain category of nuclear weapons and led to end the cold war. The expiration of the treaty without

alternative measures will threaten the beginning of a new arms race and increasing risk of using nuclear weapons.



The number of nuclear weapons, which grow to approximately 70,000 at the peak of Cold war era, has been reduced steadily since the late 1980s. However, an estimated 13,865 nuclear weapons still exist in this world as of the end of 2019. The US and Russian nuclear stockpiles together constitute more than 90 percent of the total. The adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons has increased the momentum toward the abolition of nuclear weapons. In the meantime, Nuclear Weapon States continue to modernize their nuclear forces and delivery vehicles capable of carrying nuclear warheads. They have characterize that it is still essential to exert nuclear deterrence in order to protect national security. They also have attached importance to the role of nuclear deterrence again.

Actions taken by the UN

Treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons

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 Assembly encouraged all Member States to participate in the Conference, with the

participation and contribution of international organizations and civil society representatives.

The Conference took place from 27 to 31 March and from 15 June to 7 July in New York.

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) includes a comprehensive set of prohibitions on participating in any nuclear weapon activities. These include undertakings not to develop, test, produce, acquire, possess, stockpile, use or threaten to use nuclear weapons. The Treaty also prohibits the deployment of nuclear weapons on national territory and the provision of assistance to any State in the conduct of prohibited activities. States parties will be obliged to prevent and suppress any activity prohibited under the TPNW undertaken by persons or on territory under its jurisdiction or control. 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.

Nuclear Weapon Free Zones

Regional Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones (NWFZ) have been established to strengthen global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament norms and consolidate international efforts towards peace and security.

The United Nations has sought to eliminate such weapons ever since its establishment. The first resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1946 established a Commission to deal with problems related to the discovery of atomic energy among others. The Commission was to make proposals for, inter alia, the control of atomic energy to the extent necessary to ensure its use only for peaceful purposes. The resolution also decided that the Commission should make proposals for "the elimination from national armaments of atomic weapons and of all other major weapons adaptable to mass destruction."

A number of multilateral treaties have since been established with the aim of preventing nuclear proliferation and testing, while promoting progress in nuclear disarmament. These include the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests In The Atmosphere, In Outer Space And Under Water, also known as the Partial Test Ban Treaty (PTBT), the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), which was signed in 1996 but has yet to enter into force, and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) , which will enter into force on 22 January 2021.

A number of bilateral and plurilateral treaties and arrangements seek to reduce or eliminate certain categories of nuclear weapons, to prevent the proliferation of such weapons and their delivery vehicles. These range from several treaties between the United States of America and Russian Federation as well as various other initiatives, to the Nuclear Suppliers Group, the Missile Technology Control Regime, the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation, and the Wassenaar Arrangement.

International Atomic Energy Agency

The International Atomic Energy Agency works with its Member States and multiple partners worldwide to promote the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear technologies. The IAEA's relationship with the United Nations is guided by an agreement signed in 1957. It stipulates that: "The Agency undertakes to

conduct its activities in accordance with the Purposes and Principles of the United Nations Charter to promote peace and international co-operation, and in conformity with policies of the United Nations furthering the establishment of safeguarded worldwide disarmament and in conformity with any international agreements entered into pursuant to such policies."

Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

Under the 1968 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the IAEA conducts on-site inspections to ensure that nuclear materials are used only used for peaceful purposes. Prior to the 2003 Iraq war, its inspectors played a key role in uncovering and eliminating Iraq's banned weapons programmes and capabilities. In 2005, the Agency and its Director General, Mohamed ElBaradei were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize "for their efforts to prevent nuclear energy from being used for military purposes and to ensure that nuclear energy for peaceful purposes is used in the safest possible way."

Solutions

The control of nuclear weapons so far

It is almost 65 years since the development of the first nuclear bomb, and yet we have had only two cases of use of nuclear weapons in war, namely Hiroshima and Nagasaki. So we have been spared the horror of a large nuclear war during this period when more than 130,000 nuclear weapons were built. This is a very unusual event in the history of mankind: so many weapons built, never to be used. Why has this happened? First, the leadership of the two nuclear superpowers and of the smaller nuclear States behaved as rational decision makers, as far as the control of nuclear weapons and the decision not to initiate their use were concerned. In others words, deterrence worked, but we have to recall that the Cuban missile crisis of 1962 and other lesser crises pushed the risk of a nuclear confrontation very close to the abyss. Moreover, the system of nuclear deterrence worked and still works now on the basis of the capability of each nuclear superpower to react promptly if they receive information that they are under nuclear missile attack from their opponent. The idea is that each nuclear superpower should react against the opponent before its own nuclear missiles are destroyed while still on the ground or in their silos. With this system, known as nuclear reaction alert or "launch on warning", we have had numerous incidents of false attack that risked accidental nuclear war. Among the factors that spared mankind from the horror of a nuclear war, one was good luck, in not taking wrong decisions at

critical moments, and in keeping technical mistakes and failures ultimately under control.

In avoiding a nuclear catastrophe we have been helped by the fact that contrary to the expectations of the early nuclear age, most nations have remained non-nuclear; in other words proliferation was contained.

To eliminate nuclear weapons, the international community may take the following concrete steps:

1. The nuclear-weapon States possessing the largest nuclear arsenals bear special responsibility for nuclear disarmament. They should continue to reduce drastically their respective nuclear arsenals on the principle of irreversibility.
2. All the nuclear-weapon States should renounce the nuclear deterrence policy based on the first use of nuclear weapons, undertake unconditionally not to be the first to use nuclear weapons and conclude an international legal instrument to such effect.
3. All the nuclear-weapon States should commit themselves unconditionally not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States or nuclear-weapon-free zones, and a relevant international legal instrument should be concluded.
4. The nuclear-weapon States concerned should undertake to withdraw all the nuclear weapons deployed outside their territories.
5. All the nuclear-weapon States should support the efforts to establish nuclear-weapon-free zones, respect the status of those zones and assume the relevant obligations.
6. The nuclear-weapon States and the non-nuclear-weapon States concerned should forego the “nuclear umbrella” policy and the practice of “nuclear sharing”.
7. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) should be observed in full and in good faith. Those countries which have not yet acceded to the NPT should do so without delay and without conditions, so as to make the treaty truly universal.
8. The states which have not yet signed and ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) should do so as soon as possible, so as to promote the early entry into force of the CTBT according to the treaty provisions.
9. A universal and verifiable fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT) should be negotiated and concluded.

10. On the basis of the above-mentioned efforts, a convention on the complete prohibition of nuclear weapons should be negotiated and concluded.

A 'minimisation agenda' that calls on all nuclear powers to take urgent first steps towards nuclear disarmament. This is made up of four key:

The first is Doctrine: every nuclear state should make an unequivocal "No First Use" declaration.

Second, De-alerting: almost all warheads should be taken off high alert status.

Third, Deployment: substantially reduce the one-quarter of all nuclear warheads that are currently operationally deployed.

And finally Decrease: dramatically cut the number of nuclear weapons in existence from 14,000 to around 2,000. Such a decrease should be spread evenly between US and Russia, with both reducing to no more than 500 each, and no increase in the arsenals of other states. This is in line with a 2010 study by the US Airforce as to the minimum warhead numbers that could constitute an effective US deterrence.