

## Security Council

### Topic A:

**"Inclusion of countries with illegal nuclear arsenal on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons"**

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### INTRODUCTION

A nuclear weapon is one bomb or missile which uses nuclear energy to cause a destructive explosion. One of this can destroy an entire city, this is why they are considered the most dangerous weapon on Earth. Countries around the world have an extended nuclear arsenal, which means that they have a large storage of atomic bombs, and the ones who count with these types of weapon are mostly developed countries.

The Treaty on the Prohibition of the Nuclear Weapons is the first one to legally prohibit nuclear weapons. Fifty countries have signed this Treaty, as up to 20 September, 2017. This treaty was made mainly because of the concerns of the existence of these weapons and the catastrophic damage they can cause, as they are believed to endanger our world and our future, not only socially, but environmentally.

This treaty searches the accomplishment of the universal goal of a world free of nuclear weapons. Nuclear weapons had been seen as a problem since the one dropped by the United States of America in Hiroshima on August 6, 1945 where around 140,000 people died at the time and others died later because of the radiation and the illness it came with. Nowadays there have been a lot of threats in using these weapons, which make this problem even bigger.

There are nine countries around the world who possess this kind of weapons, at least nine that possess them legally. These countries are: United States of America, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, France, China, India, Israel, Pakistan and North Korea. But it is believed that other countries possess them illegally, such as Belgium or Italy, who host United States nuclear weapons as part of an arrangement

in sharing these and others like Canada or Japan, who are in nuclear alliances.

There are also Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zones. The NWFZ are the regions in where there is an approach to the disarmament norms and also consolidates the efforts made worldwide in search of peace and security. The General Assembly says that a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone is any zone recognized by themselves [The GA]. In the free exercise of their own power, established the total absence of any kind of nuclear weapons and the implementation of an international system of verification.

Some of the treaties which are involved in the NWFZ are the Treaty of Tlatelolco, Treaty of Rarotonga, Treaty of Bangkok, Treaty of Pelindaba and Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia. This means that some of the Free Zones are: Latin America and the Caribbean, the South Pacific, Southeast Asia, Africa and Central Asia as well. There are also other treaties which refer to places free of any nuclear activity, like the Antarctic Treaty, the Outer Space Treaty, the Moon Agreement and the Seabed Treaty.

The Prohibition of nuclear weapons may be a problem for those countries which possess them in legal terms. Due to the fact that with the Treaty, these countries agree to eliminate all kinds of nuclear weapons on their power. The problem begins when the countries who possess these kinds of weapons illegally are not forced to eliminate their weapons, leaving everyone else with a great disadvantage in case of any kind of Belic conflict.

## **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

As it was established before, nuclear weapons have been a problem since 1945, when the first nuclear bomb was tested.

I. 1945, the United States was the first country to successfully develop a nuclear weapon. July 16; the US government tested the first nuclear bomb in New Mexico, the result of the "Manhattan Project". On August 6, a bomb was dropped in the city of Hiroshima, Japan, resulting in thousands of immediate and later radiation-affiliated deaths. On August 9, a subsequent bomb was released on Nagasaki.

II. 1946, January 24, the General Assembly of the UN decided to call for an elimination of all nuclear weapons and established a commission to face the conflict of the atomic discovery. In the resolution paper of GA about this commission says that the commission should be composed by one representative of each state member of the Security Council, and also one representative from Canada, even though Canada is not a member of SC. The commission is not an organ of the United Nations, but it does have a stretch relation with the organs. The resolution paper implies that the commission will submit its reports and also its recommendation with the Security Council. These reports will come public unless SC thinks better not to, because of peace and security. The commission gives proposals such as:

1. Exchanging scientific information between countries only for peaceful ends.
2. Control of atomic energy, moderating it is only for peaceful ends.
3. The elimination of any kind of mass destruction weapons.
4. Safeguards, inspection of states to avoid violations and evasions.

III. During the following years several other countries developed nuclear weapons of their own. In 1949, the Soviet Union conducts its first successful nuclear test. Later in 1952, the United Kingdom tested its first nuclear bomb. By 1954, the US efficiently attempted two more tests. France detonates its first bomb by 1960. In October 1962, Soviet missiles are discovered in Cuba by the US. Almost leading to an armed conflict, involving their nuclear arsenals, between them. China became the fifth country to detonate a nuclear weapon in 1964. In 1967, Latin America was declared nuclear-free.

IV. The Non-Proliferation Treaty or NPT is an international treaty whose main objective relies on the achieving of complete nuclear disarmament and the prevention of the spread of nuclear weapons. Opened for signature in 1968.

V. In 1974, India conducts an underground nuclear test. Information is revealed in 1986, stating that Israel had numerous nuclear weapons. Almost decade later, Southeast Asia becomes nuclear-free. In 1996, Africa and Ukraine did the same. The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty is signed in 1996, but India refused to do so. two years later India and Pakistan conduct several more nuclear tests.

VI. North Korea becomes the eighth official country to efficiently use nuclear weapons in 2006. A year later in Australia, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons is founded. This Campaign, also known as ICAN, is a union of non-governmental organizations all around the world which promotes the implementation of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The organization has a humanitarian initiative, which is the basic principle. This initiative was through after the damaging effects that these weapons had back in.

## **CURRENT RELEVANCE**

The Nuclear Prohibition Treaty is a treaty which was made because of concerns involving the use of the nuclear weapons, and because of environmentally and socially damages, reason why this treaty is a big step toward achieving the main goal, a world free of nuclear weapons. António Guterres, UN secretary-general said that this treaty will aware people about the risk of these kinds of weapons. This fact will make a lot easier the achieving of the goal previously mentioned, making nuclear weapons an idea that only exists in movies or in books.

With the purpose of achieving a free nuclear weapons future there have been multiple changes to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation treaty made in 1968, as well as it was established that every five years to gather around and create new resolutions for the current situation.

In 2010 took place the eighth NPT review conference, which later on led to the New START treaty where the United States and Russia agree to reduce strategic and offensive arms, reducing the number of deployed nuclear warheads a country can have. The same year, the U.K. announces the plans of reducing its nuclear arms.

Later on, in March 2013 Norway hosted the first Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons which focused on their impact in the environment, global climate and humans, although

127 states attended the five original nuclear weapon states, such as, China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the US, decided not to. The 9th Review Conference for NPT was held from April 27 to May 22, 2015 where the Conference President, Ambassador Taous Feroukhi of Algeria presented a final draft paper but the US, the UK and Canada did not support the formula presented in the document for pursuing a conference to discuss the Middle East Zone.

At the three open-ended working group meetings held in Geneva in 2016 many states spoke in favor of opening negotiations for a ban treaty. The vote was 68-22, with 13 states abstain while all 9 nuclear countries boycotted the meeting.

The origins of the treaty began with the Humanitarian Initiative. It started on March 2010, with the Non-Proliferation Treaty conference, which its main concern relied on the consequences concerning nuclear weapons. On November 2011, the Red Cross adopted a resolution engaging all countries to prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons. Later on May 2012, the first humanitarian statement was made, urging all nations to make a greater effort against these weapons.

As mentioned before, Norway hosted a conference in 2013, where 128 nations were present. On February 2014, Mexico hosted the second conference, with 146 nations present, calling for a diplomatic process. In the Vienna conference, on December 2014, 127 nations approved a document known as the Humanitarian Pledge. Discussion by the UN takes place in Geneva, February 2016. On December of the same year, the General Assembly adopts a resolution to "legally bind instruments to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination".

On March 27, 2017, the majority of the world's countries at the United Nations began the negotiations on the nuclear ban treaty. "The Assembly encouraged all Member States to participate in the Conference, under the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, with the participation and contribution of international organizations and civil society representatives. The Conference was held in New York from 27 to 31 March and from 15 June to 7 July. The Conference held a one-day organizational session in New York on 16 February 2017." [United Nations, 2017]

Finally, on July 7th, 2017, the UN adopted the first treaty totally banning nuclear weapons, this Nuclear Prohibition Treaty prohibits all aspects

such as their use, testing, development, possession, manufacturing or stockpiling nuclear weapons or other devices. The initiative led by Austria, Brazil, Mexico, South Africa and New Zealand was approved by 122 countries, with only Netherlands opposed and Singapore abstaining. On the other hand, the 9 nuclear weapons countries: The United States, North Korea, Israel, Russia, Britain, China, France and India didn't even attend to the United Nations headquarters in New York City, as well as some NATO members as Australia, South Korea and Japan.

However, the impact of the treaty and their actions will only become evident in a long-term basis, the negotiators do not have illusions on immediate results in reducing nuclear risks, instead the aim is to make it more difficult for states to continue to rely on this kind of weapons for their military and foreign policy strategies. This treaty, on the other hand, commits its members to conduct environmental remediation and give assistance to the victims while using or testing this kind of resources.

## **INTERNATIONAL ACTIONS**

There some organizations rooting forward the Prohibition of nuclear weapons, some of this actually participated in the elaboration and designation of the Treaty, such as the United Nations, the International Red Cross and the Red Crescent Movement.

This International Movement contributed in the process of disarmament since the negotiations of 2016, thanks to the Resolution 1 of the 2013 Council of Delegates the implementation of a 4 years action plan took place which immediately motivated the National Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies [IFRC] to held a dialogue with other countries and therefore promote the process of banning this kind of weapons faster, by the use of social media and advertising. This became the number one priority for the Red Cross Movement, the abolishment and disarmament.

On the other hand, there some other organizations raising awareness national and internationally of the international humanitarian law and the consequences on the society they can cause, as well as they publish a diversity of papers and investigations related to the disarmament, helping create a bridge between the society and the government going through the process of implementing what was established in the Treaty,

some of these institutions are ICAN, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War.

ICAN which held for the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons is a lot of non-governmental organizations together that promote the adherence of the countries to the United Nations' nuclear ban treaty. This campaign has more than 100 countries involved as a partner with one specific goal of mobilizing the people against the use of this kind of lethal weapons.

The Parliamentarian for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (PNND) is a non-partial forum where parliamentarians, negotiators, share both international and nationally information involving the disarmament, as well as help create new techniques and strategies to promote the ban Treaty.

WILPF has had one important goal since its foundation in 1915 involving the nuclear disarmament, reason why in 1999 they started a programme named: which focuses in the promoting of civil society interests of the subject in matter, the UN actions with the unique purpose of exposing the prohibition and arms control.

The Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) is the international organizations which were established on 19 November 1996 by the States Signatories of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, with headquarters in Austria. The objective is to accomplish the goal of the Treaty, ensuring the implementations of the provisions, providing a forum where the Member States can consult and cooperate. The commission prepared an extended preparation for the correct implementation of the treaty, which includes a global verification regime. The relationship between the United Nations and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty was adopted in 2000 by the General Assembly.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is an intergovernmental forum, world central, specified in scientific and technical cooperation in the nuclear field. This Agency works mainly for the safe of people and the correct use of the Nuclear Technology. This agency also contributes to the peace and security internationally, as well as the

Sustainable Development Goals that the United Nations have. This Agency is better known as "Atoms for Peace", and it cooperates within the United Nations family. It works with all Member States and a lot of partners all around the globe, promoting the use of nuclear technology safely, peaceful and secure.

The IAEA was created because of the fears and expectations caused by the discoveries and use of the nuclear technology in 1975 as a response. The person who created it was the United States' president Eisenhower directed to the General Assembly in December 1953. The official birth of this agency is on 29 July 1957.

On the other hand, there some organisms already working against the use of these weapons such as the International Panel on Fissile Materials or IPFM. This panel was founded in 2006. It consists of a group of experts which control and limit fissile materials like uranium and plutonium, which are important factors in the development of nuclear weapons.

## **UN ACTIONS**

1. The United Nations Security Council opened for signature a resolution on 1996, persuading all States to adopt the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, which sensors all nuclear actions for any given purposes. This Treaty began its negotiations in January 1994 by the Conference of Disarmament. The negotiations took two intensive years. By June of 1996 the Ambassador Jaap Ramaker of the Netherlands, chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee, presented a final draft of the treaty to the CD.

2. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which entered into force in 1970, the main goal is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and technology and to achieve the complete disarmament of nuclear weaponry. This was opened for signature in 1968 and entered in fore in 1970. The Treaty was extended on 11 May 1995, indefinitely. 191 States joined the Treaty, this 191 states included all five nuclear-weapons states. There are more countries ratified to this treaty than to any other agreement in arms limitations and disarmament. which means a great significance of this Treaty. In the Treaty, it is stipulated that every five years the operation will be a review, called by the States as Review and Extension conference. Also, the Treaty establishes that the International Atomic Energy as the responsible for the safeguard



system. This treaty promotes cooperation for a peaceful nuclear technology and equal access from all different States to this nuclear information, and the safeguards prevent the use of these weapons, not even for practice.

3. On September 2017, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was established, and it forbids all actions [development, assembling, ownership, use, promotion, threat, relocation, among others] involving explosives driven by nuclear energy. It acknowledges the immense harm and consequences of the use of nuclear devices. Moreover, the treaty recognizes and supports the previously mentioned NPT [Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty] and the CTBT [Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty].

4. UNODA [United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs] was instituted in January 1998; its main objective is the contribution of support and exertion for the disarmament efforts of well-known areas with numerous weapons. It promotes these actions through favorable communication, recognition of armaments within a State, and CBMs [Confidence-Building Measures]. Since nuclear bombs are the most threatening and harmful type of weaponry, for any society as well as the environment, it is a preeminent issue for this organization.

5. The International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons [26 September]. In 1946, after the Hiroshima bomb was launched, the General Assembly's first resolution was achieving the global nuclear disarmament, which means this goal previously mentioned is one of the oldest goals that the United Nations have. This first came into the GA's agenda in 1959, and since then has become the most urgent and important goal to achieve. But, even though the UN had put a lot of effort in it, there are still a lot of nuclear weapons in the world and a lot of countries that possess them or are part of a nuclear alliance. And even though there has been a significant reduction in deployed atomic weapons since 1991 [Cold War], there has not been a nuclear weapon which is destroyed due to a treaty of the UN. All these facts made the GA's designation of 26 September as the International Day of the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

## **POINTS TO DISCUSS**

Which are the economic and social consequences of having nuclear weapons and how this affects the society?

Strategies to eliminate once and for all nuclear weapons.

The inclusion of countries that are not members of the Treaty.

Discuss ways to replace nuclear weapons to attain world security and security according to the Treaty.

What are the benefits of integrating the Treaty?

The number of problems nuclear weapons bring with them and the repercussions in the environment.

How could the economic resources invested in nuclear arsenals be better used? [Improve the economy of the country, programs for the care of the environment and improvement of schools and education.]

What should happen with the countries who refuse to stop creating nuclear weapons and to be part of the Treaty? [Intervention of the UN and other organizations.]

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