

# **SIMULATION COMMITTEE GUIDE**

**SC**



## **SECURITY COUNCIL**

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## Presidents' Letter

We would like to extend a warm welcome to this year's CCBMUN model, as well as to our committee, the Security Council. First of all, let us introduce ourselves. We are Isabella Gallego and Jacobo Ordoñez, 11th graders from Colegio Colombo Británico in Cali. We have both participated in numerous Model UNs, fulfilling roles as both delegates and presidents, in which we have acquired numerous tools and skills in order to provide you with more than just a model, but an enjoyable learning experience. As such, we hope that this model will be an enriching and unique experience in which you will learn something new, regardless of your previous experience with UN Models.

As your presidents, we look forward to debating current topics of concern around the world such as the essential updating of the "Treaty of the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons" and commencing diplomatic relations between the United Nations and the Kurdish Nation. It is also crucial to keep in mind that you will be representing your delegation's political views, not your own, and to understand that the political, economic, social, philosophical, religious and historical characteristics of each delegation have an enormous influence, and must be taken into account during the debates. We also expect to see a high level of engagement, with delegates making relevant interventions and making their position clear. Delegates will also need to use their social, communication and research skills to overcome any obstacles or problems that may arise along the way.

We look forward to seeing a free-flowing debate and a high level of analysis in all your interventions. Above all, we hope that you will feel at ease in the committee and enjoy the process of resolving the issues that have been raised. We want you to understand that our job is not only to evaluate you, but to guide you as you participate in the committee, and to ensure that you have an enriching experience during the model.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at the committee's email address, and we will be happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have about the guide, the procedures or the topics.

Yours sincerely,

Isabella Gallego and Jacobo Ordoñez (Security Council Chair)

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## **Simulation topic: *Updating the Treaty of the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons***

### **I. History/Context**

The “Treaty of the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons” (NPT) is a historic international agreement that aims to encourage cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, restrict the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, and enhance the pursuit of widespread and total disarmament. The Treaty is the only multilateral agreement that establishes a legally binding pledge to nuclear-weapon states' disarmament as an aim. The Treaty was made available for signing in 1968, and it became operative in 1970. Later, the NPT was extended indefinitely and revised and renewed on May 11, 1995. The five nuclear-armed States are included in the overall number of States that have ratified the Treaty. The NPT has been ratified by more nations than any other arms control and disarmament treaty, which is evidence of the Treaty's importance.

Moreover, The NPT was a treaty that the United Kingdom, the United States, the Soviet Union, and 59 other states signed. It said that the three major signatories, all of which had nuclear weapons, would not help other countries acquire or produce nuclear weapons. The agreement went into force in March 1970 and was intended to last for 25 years. Later, more nations ratified the agreement; as of 2007, just three nations - India, Israel, and Pakistan - had refused to sign it, and one - North Korea - had signed it before withdrawing from it. In 1995, 174 nations agreed to renew the Treaty unconditionally and indefinitely at the United Nations headquarters in New York City.

The Non-Proliferation Treaty is particularly important because it limits the development of nuclear weapons while allowing established nuclear powers to maintain their arsenals. However, since then, it has been accepted that at the time of signing, the majority of non-nuclear governments lacked the capability or desire to pursue a nuclear path, and were fully aware of the risks that proliferation posed to their security. Furthermore, it was also accepted in 1968 that in exchange for their special status, nuclear states would aid non-nuclear states in the development of civilian nuclear power (although in practice, the difference between civilian and military nuclear technology was not always clear) and would use their advisory roles to reach an agreement on disarmament measures.

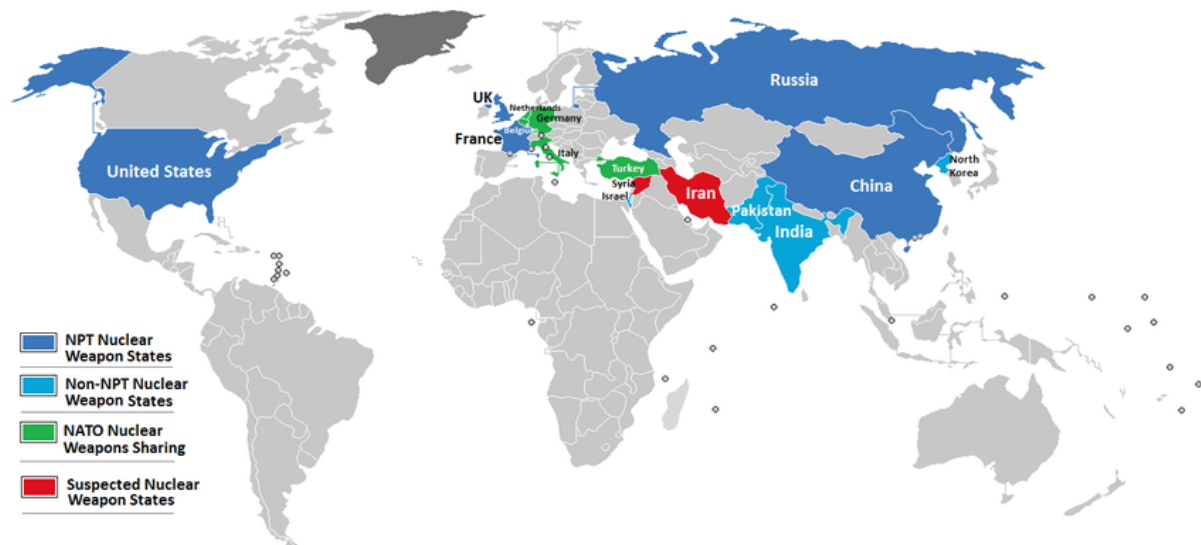
This disparity was one of the main criticisms levelled at the established nuclear powers at the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The Treaty still plays a significant part in upholding the global standards against proliferation, but it has been put into question by a series of events, such as (1) North

Korea's 2003 withdrawal due to its order to pursue the status of a nuclear state, (2) evidence of Iraq's progress in the 1980s on its nuclear programme even after being a signatory to the Treaty, and (3) alleged uranium enrichment facilities in Iran, also a nation signatory to the Treaty.

These worries relate to uranium, a crucial component of nuclear weapons and nuclear fission. A substantial quantity of energy is released as an explosion when uranium is used in nuclear weapons. Therefore, monitoring and regulating uranium enrichment as well as preventing its potential diversion for weapon use must be given the utmost importance in efforts to stop the spread of nuclear weapons. These nations' possession and enrichment of uranium in the context of their own nuclear programmes has sparked worries about the material's potential military applications, resulting in tensions on the international stage and discussions about the NPT's efficacy.

The fact that Pakistan and India were declared nuclear powers in 1998 without suffering any significant international punitive measures and that India established its own special arrangements as part of a bilateral agreement with the United States in 2008, have both undermined the legitimacy of the non-proliferation norm, making the updating of the Treaty essential in order to uphold global security.

### Text of the Treaty



Map of countries with nuclear weapons

Hotez, P. J. (2010, April 27). *Nuclear Weapons and Neglected Diseases: The "Ten-Thousand-to-One Gap."* ResearchGate; Public Library of Science.

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/43535855\\_Nuclear\\_Weapons\\_and\\_Neglected\\_Diseases\\_The\\_Ten-Thousand-to-One\\_Gap](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/43535855_Nuclear_Weapons_and_Neglected_Diseases_The_Ten-Thousand-to-One_Gap)

## II. Current Situation

Since 2003, when North Korea withdrew from the NPT, tensions regarding the use of nuclear weapons have been on the rise. In 2005, the North Korean delegation admitted to having a nuclear arsenal, but also promised there were plans to close down the programme. However, this never came to fruition, and they would hold their first test on the 9th of October 2006. This was the first major event that set the stage for what was to come in the following years with the constant threats and the ever-decreasing trust in the NPT.

In 2007, the situation was complicated further, when North Korea claimed to have even more nuclear warheads, and then proceeded to agree to shut down its main nuclear facility. This agreement was signed (by the US, Japan, Russia, China, South Korea, and North Korea) and its conditions were delivered in the same year, but unfortunately, it fell apart just 2 years later. In 2009, it was discovered that North Korea had continued to develop its programme and had become a “fully fledged nuclear power” according to Mohamed ElBaradei, general director of the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency). This was followed by another nuclear test in the same year.

Since then, North Korea has continued to expand its nuclear programme and has practised various missile tests, both nuclear and ballistic. They have tested hydrogen bombs and ICBMs capable of reaching the continental US. As of 2022, their nuclear weapons policy states that they “*will never be abused or used as a means for pre-emptive strike*”. However, the policy doesn’t include a proper “no first use” policy, and it states that if there is an “*attempt to have recourse to military force against us*”, they will use their most powerful forces against the perpetrator.

Very recently, the North Korean government threatened the US and South Korea with the use of nuclear weapons, if their recurring military drills continue to take place. These drills started on the 22nd of August 2022, and are part of a plan called “The Ulchi Freedom Shield”, which is supposed to improve the readiness of troops in case of an invasion by North Korea.

Before these exercises started, the US and South Korea had reduced the frequency and size of their drills and even replaced some of them with computer simulations. This was done to reduce tensions between the parties before talks took place between Donald Trump and Kim Jong-Un. However, due to sanctions imposed by the US on North Korea, the latter decided to begin new ballistic missile tests recently, and even launched some over Japanese territory, causing the US and South Korea to withdraw from all negotiations and start the new large-scale preparation drills.

On the other hand, the war in Ukraine has lasted for months longer than everyone thought it would and therefore has become the largest war in Europe since 1945. Over the last few months, Vladimir Putin has openly discussed the use of nuclear weapons, whether that be in Ukraine, or as a threat against countries trying to join NATO. This has been even more evident during the last month, as Putin has mentioned Russia's array of weapons on multiple occasions and even got to the point of threatening to use them in some cases. According to the BBC, he said that Russia would use "all means we have" in order to defend Russian territory (According to Putin, this includes Crimea and some parts of North-eastern Ukraine). Furthermore, Putin also claimed that the US created a "precedent" with their use of nuclear weapons in World War II. Russia's nuclear weapon pool is very large, containing about 5977 nuclear warheads. 1500 of those are set to be retired, so they actually own about 4500 operational nuclear warheads, which according to the BBC, is the second most of any country, just behind the US.

Many believe that Russia's allegations are just threats seeking to deter other countries from interfering with the war in Ukraine. They also believe that Russia wouldn't do such a thing because they fear losing one of their most important allies in China. However, Putin recently said that his comments about using nuclear weapons were completely serious and should not be taken lightly.

Then there's also Pakistan, which started testing their nuclear weapons in 1998, as they assured the world that their national security demanded it. Since then, many have questioned the safety of said weapons, as they fear that they might fall into belligerents' hands. As Barack Obama once said, "The single biggest threat to US security, both short term, medium term and long term, would be the possibility of a belligerent organisation obtaining a nuclear weapon". However, the Pakistani government has assured on many occasions that this shouldn't be a concern and that the weapons are completely safe. Nevertheless, the world is still extremely wary of this situation, as the Pakistani government was known to work with said belligerent groups during the war in Afghanistan over the last 20 years.

Numerous African nations have signed the NPT, demonstrating how crucial Africa is to the agreement. Although there are no guarantees that Africa will have a specific number of non-permanent members in the Security Council, its involvement in the NPT and international diplomacy continues to be noteworthy.

For instance, South Africa is a significant country in Africa when it comes to nuclear and de-arming issues. Prior to its democratic transition from apartheid, South Africa played a key role in international campaigns against denuclearize. It joined the NPT as a nuclear-weapon-free state after voluntarily ending its nuclear weapons programme.

In the end, whether the weapons end up being used or not, the treaty of non-proliferation has demonstrated its complete obsolescence. Countries such as Pakistan, India and North Korea, who broke the treaty and started their own nuclear programs have faced no real consequences, while Russia who has threatened to be the “first user” hasn’t faced any consequences either. The relevance of the treaty is higher than ever, and still, it’s not having the desired influence.

### III. Key points of the debate

- The way in which certain countries have been established as nuclear states with no penalty
- Unequal development and possession of nuclear weapons
- Allegations of high uranium enrichment as a threat to global security
- Challenges against international proliferation and disarmament norms
- Potential nuclear threat due to an outdated NPT
- Ineffective implementation of disarmament by established nuclear powers

### IV. Guiding questions

1. Does your country have an active nuclear programme?
2. Does your nation plan on starting a nuclear programme in the future?
3. Are your delegation’s allies nuclear powers?
4. Did your country sign the original NPT?
5. Does your country rely on nuclear power for its general population?
6. What is your country’s position on changing the present Treaty, if any?

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