

COMMITTEE GUIDE

SC



**UNITED NATIONS SECURITY
COUNCIL**

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Presidents' Letter

Honourable delegates,

We want to welcome you to this year's CCBMUN! Our names are Isabella Hernandez and Pedro Restrepo, and we are currently twelfth graders at Colegio Colombo Británico. Both of us have been eager participants in the MUN for years and have previously fulfilled the role of presidents in past models. We can both confidently say that the MUN has been essential to our growth and improvement, and as we take on the challenge of presiding over the Security Council, we will work to make sure that this model is just as enriching for you.

The security council has been one of the most important bodies of the United Nations since it was founded in 1945. It is one of the founding committees and has become a main organisation in international politics. It has helped to solve many security crises and therefore has gained credibility, power and provided security to nations abiding to the United Nations.

We would like to further remind you that in this commission guide there are a variety of reliable sources, contexts, and examples that we strongly believe will be useful for you. We hope this will foment a fluent and respectful debate which allows for the SC to reach pertinent conclusions in order to resolve the discussed problems. Likewise, we suggest that you enjoy your time in the model as much as you can; this experience will refine you both in your academic and personal growth to become future leaders. Remember that this is an opportunity to research and learn more about worldwide issues and how to generate an impact in our society.

We look forward to seeing you at CCBMUN XX!

Yours sincerely,

Pedro & Isabella
Security Council Presidents

Committee Information

I. History

In 1945, after the huge repercussions of World War II, society was left in diplomatic disorder. Therefore, the United Nations was established as an international organisation to maintain worldwide peace and to prevent conflicts of a severe magnitude. The United Nations Security Council is the main organism of the UN. Its primary goal is to maintain international peace and security by diplomatically addressing issues of great concern. This committee was established under the 5th chapter of the United Nations charter of June 26th, 1945. (Jaramillo, Robles, 2020).

II. Structure

The United Nations Security Council operates under chapter V (articles 23 to 32) of the Charter of the United Nations, which includes the composition, functions, powers, and procedures of the entity. The following is the structure imposed by these articles:

Article 23:

1. The Security Council shall consist of fifteen members of the United Nations. The Republic of China, France, the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America will be permanent members of the Security Council. The General Assembly will elect another ten Members of the United Nations that will be non-permanent members of the Security Council, paying particular attention, first of all, to the contribution of the Members of the United Nations to the maintenance of international peace and security and to the other purposes of the organisation, as well as equitable geographical distribution.
2. Non-permanent members of the Security Council will be elected for two years. In the first election of non-permanent members held after the number of members of the Security Council has been increased from eleven to fifteen, two of the four new members will be elected for one year. Outgoing members will not be re-eligible for the subsequent period.

Each member of the Security Council will have a representative.

Article 24:

1. In order to ensure rapid and effective action by the United Nations, its members give the Security Council the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and

security and recognize that the Security Council acts on their behalf in their performance of the functions imposed by that responsibility.

2. In carrying out these functions, the Security Council shall proceed following the Purposes and Principles of the United Nations. The powers granted to the Security Council for the performance of these functions are defined in Chapters VI, VII, VIII, and XII.
3. The Security Council shall submit annual reports and, when necessary, special reports to the General Assembly.

Article 25

The Members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council in accordance with the present Charter. (Charter of the United Nations, 1945).

With the above articles in mind, the current members of the United Nations Security Council are as follows:

- Permanent: China, France, Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States
- Non-permanent: Estonia, India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Niger, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, Vietnam.

* The election is held by secret ballot, and there are no nominations. Non-permanent members must be elected by a 2/3 majority of all member states.

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Topic 1: *The essential updating of the “Treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.”*

I. History/Context

The “Treaty on 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 stated 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 but then withdrew. In 1995, 174 nations agreed to renew the Treaty unconditionally and indefinitely at the United Nations' headquarters in New York City.

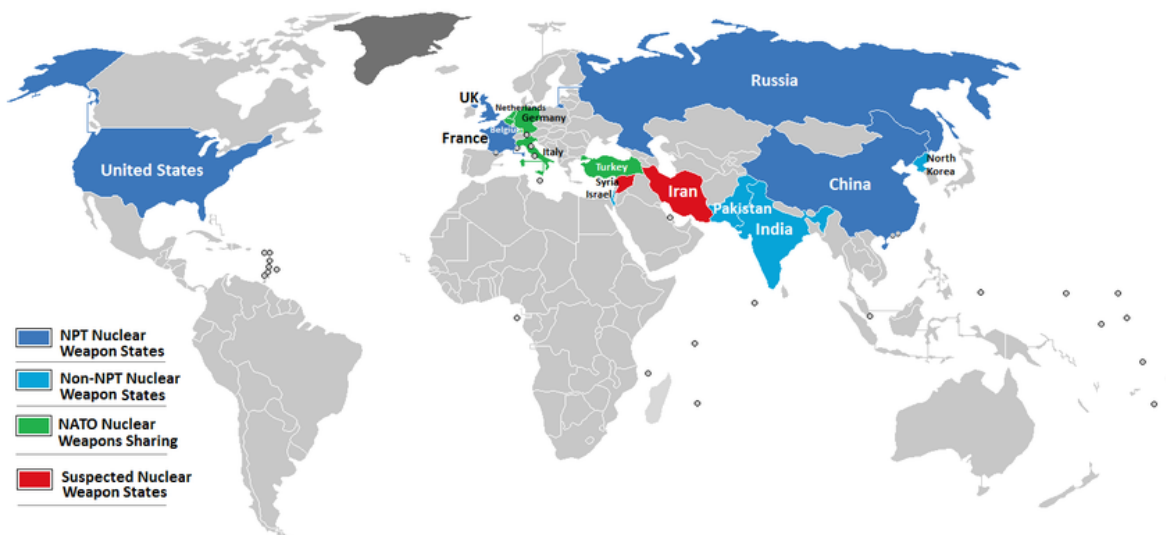
The Non-Proliferation Treaty is particularly important because it limits developing nuclear weapons while allowing established nuclear powers to maintain their arsenals. However, since then, it has been accepted that at the time of signing, the majority of non-nuclear governments lacked the capability or desire to pursue a nuclear path, and that they 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 the 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 determination to pursue the status of a nuclear state, (2) apparent 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.

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.

You can read the whole Treaty in this link: [Text of the Treaty](#)



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

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 which set the stage for what was to come in the following years with the constant threats and the ever-decreasing trust in the NPT.

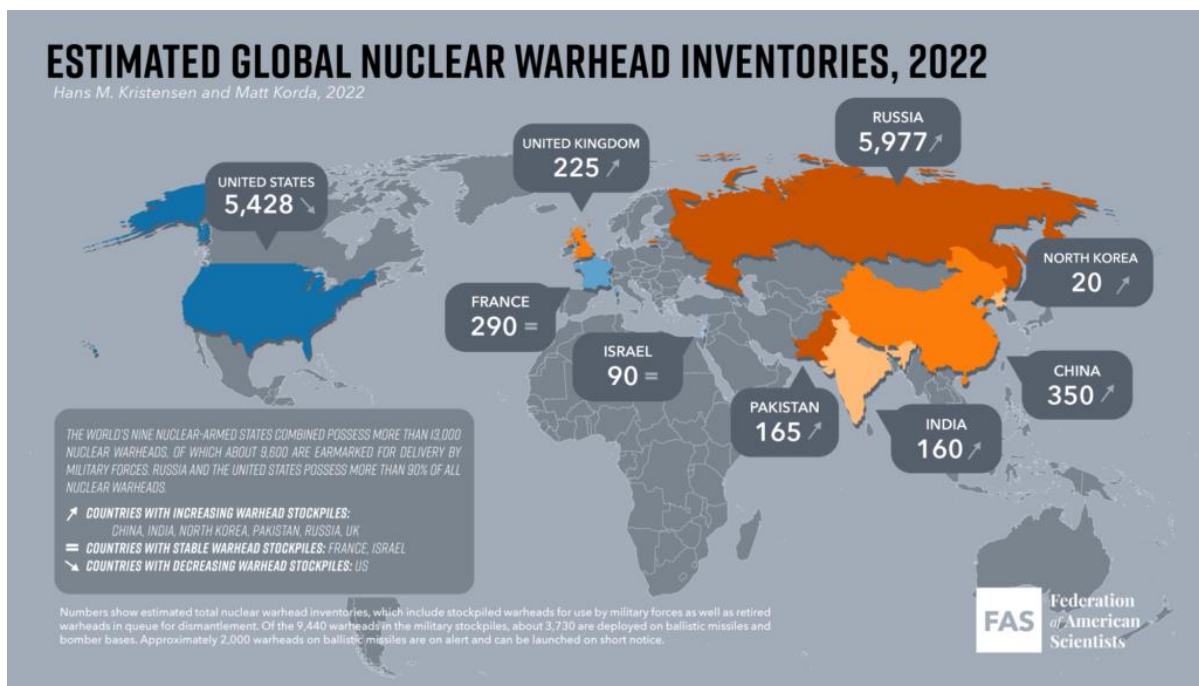
In 2007, the situation was complicated further, when North Korea claimed to have even more nuclear warheads, and then proceeded to agree to shut down its main nuclear facility. This agreement was signed (by the US, Japan, Russia, China, South Korea, and North Korea) and its conditions were delivered 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 22nd 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 in order 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 new large-scale preparation drills.

Additionally, 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, President 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 become even more evident during the past month, as President 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 Russia, this includes Crimea and some parts of North-eastern Ukraine). Furthermore, President 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 second only to the arsenal of the US.



Federation of American Scientists. (2022). *Status of World Nuclear Forces*. Federation of American Scientists. <https://fas.org/issues/nuclear-weapons/status-world-nuclear-forces/>

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 - China. However, President Putin recently said that his comments about using nuclear weapons were completely serious and should not be taken lightly.

On top of this, there is the case of Pakistan, which started testing its nuclear weapons in 1998, stating that national security demanded it. Since then, many experts have questioned the safety of these weapons, as they fear that they might fall into the hands of belligerent groups. 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, on many occasions the Pakistani government has assured 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 certain belligerent groups during the war in Afghanistan over the last 20 years.

In conclusion, whether the weapons end up being used or not, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons 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 importance of this treaty is higher than ever, as it is still 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 country'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 Non-Proliferation Treaty, if any?

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