

Background Guide for SAMARTH FAIRGAZE MUN

Committee: UNGA

Agenda: Addressing Nuclear Waste/Fallout.

Welcome to the United Nations General Assembly being simulated at Fairgaze Model United Nations conference 2022, where we shall be discussing the agenda ‘Addressing Nuclear Waste/Fallout.’ The success of the United Nations General Assembly as a committee will depend on each delegate. A committee is defined by its delegates more than by its executive board. It is you, the participating delegates, which shape the outcome. You must therefore be prepared to participate in an enriching experience. Apart from the research on the agenda, Delegates should be aware of their country’s historical background and current situation in global politics and international relations. Delegates should come into the committee with a clear foreign policy and the representatives of the governments of their countries. We are unaware of your individual credentials/experience with Model United Nations, however, no matter what that may amount to, it is a given that there can be no productive simulation in the absence of substantial research. There are multiple approaches to preparing for a simulation such as this and we shall not dictate to you which of these you must adopt, that is upon you to decide, however, we can assert with confidence that the commonality among all these approaches is that research constitutes their first step. So once the research process is initiated it needs to be coupled with proactive attempts to understand. The application of the information acquired through research always requires understanding. There is no particular point at which research concludes and analysis thereof begins, these are two intermittent processes that may continue till the last minute of the simulation. Besides research, both on the agenda and the committee's mandate, the participants are required to have a firm grasp of diplomatic conduct. Diplomatic conduct can be general and country-specific, what constitutes general diplomatic conduct (which includes language, gestures, and any other kind of expression) can be gauged from the definition of the term diplomacy. There is no precise definition of the term but an appraisal of various definitions shall help formulate a reasonably accurate notion thereof. Country-specific diplomatic conduct can be determined by studying past actions of your country (country

allotted which a participant is called the delegate) in the international fora. Speeches, statements, voting records, instances of walk-outs, boycotting of meetings et cetera can contribute to building an understanding of the same, apart from these sources, video graphic recordings of these sessions and meetings can greatly help this understanding. It is expected of all participants to conduct themselves impeccably, the concept of MUNs wasn't created simply to get students to talk about things diplomats would usually talk about, but to also hone their conduct, their reasoning, logic, negotiation, and lobbying skills, all of which can be referred to as 'soft skills. Diplomatic conduct harmoniously links speech and body language, it is a bridge between verbal and nonverbal communication thereby making it an important criterion for us to assess your performance and effectiveness. Manipulation of procedure of the committee to gain extra floor time or to stall the statement/ comment/speech of another delegate or to cause disruption therein shall not be tolerated. In order to ensure that procedure is not misused, it is necessary for delegates to be aware of the procedure of the UNGA. Having stated the above, it is now prudent to explain the purpose and nature of the background guide summarily. The background guide is a preliminary research brief pertaining to the committee and the agenda. It is NOT meant to provide participants with exhaustive information. The primary purpose of a background guide is to ensure that all participants are on a level playing field, thus it ensures that every participant possesses a modicum of information from which further information can be drawn. It serves as a base upon which the research is built. Nothing in the background guide has any evidentiary value, it can never be used as conclusive proof in the committee. It is necessary for delegates to dig deeper from where the background guide leaves them. Research may commence well before the background guide is released, delegates are free to read up on the agenda which has been made public and formulate a structure of research. It is not important for your structure to match the one that the background guide presents as long as you have a solid understanding of what you are going to be discussing in the committee. That being said, we wish you the best of preparations and hope that this simulation shall mutually benefit all those involved in it. We hope we can learn from you and impart our knowledge to you in the process. For any doubts that you may have, you may contact any member of the executive board. The email address of your committee president will be given in this guide. Looking forward to seeing you all.

1. Nuclear fallout and its relevance to the modern world.

Nuclear fallout is the residual radioactive material propelled into the upper atmosphere following a nuclear blast, so called because it "falls out" of the sky after the explosion and the shock wave has passed. It commonly refers to the radioactive dust and ash created when a nuclear weapon explodes. The amount and spread of fallout is a product of the size of the weapon and the altitude at which it is detonated. Fallout may get entrained with the products of a pyrocumulus cloud and fall as black rain (rain darkened by soot and other particulates, which fell within 30–40 minutes of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki). This radioactive dust, usually consisting of fission products which are deadly to human health.

Relating this to real life, who does not know about the infamous Russian-Ukraine war. Russian President Vladimir Putin committed to a partial military mobilization in a speech Wednesday, where he also threatened nuclear retaliation against the West. It was a sign of Putin's willingness to escalate the war in Ukraine, as Kyiv's successful counteroffensive in the Kharkiv region has recaptured territory and pushed back Russian front lines. Putin also again made explicit threats against the West. "If its territorial integrity is threatened Russia will use all the means at its disposal," he said. "This is not a bluff." Putin warned that Russia "also has various means of destruction"-in other words, nuclear weapons-"and some components are more modern than those of the NATO countries.". Military experts say the use of a nuclear weapon — for the first time in more than 75 years — would fundamentally change the shape of war. Although the resulting destruction would depend on many factors, including the weapon's size and the winds, even a small nuclear explosion could cause thousands of deaths and render parts of Ukraine uninhabitable.

Like all industries, the generation of electricity produces waste. Whatever fuel is used, the waste produced in generating electricity must be managed in ways that safeguard human health and minimize the impact on the environment.

For radioactive waste, this means isolating or diluting it such that the rate or concentration of any radionuclides returned to the biosphere is harmless. To achieve this, practically all radioactive waste is contained and managed, with some

clearly needing deep and permanent burial. From nuclear power generation, unlike all other forms of thermal electricity generation, all waste is regulated – none is allowed to cause pollution. Nuclear power is characterized by the very large amount of energy produced from a very small amount of fuel, and the amount of waste produced during this process is also relatively small. However, much of the waste produced is radioactive and therefore must be carefully managed as hazardous material. All parts of the nuclear fuel cycle produce some radioactive waste and the cost of managing and disposing of this is part of the electricity cost (i.e. it is internalized and paid for by the electricity consumers). All toxic waste needs to be dealt with safely – not just radioactive waste – and in countries with nuclear power, radioactive waste comprises a very small proportion of total industrial hazardous waste generated.

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. Although nuclear weapons have only been used twice in warfare—in the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945—about 13,400 reportedly remain in our world today and there have been over 2,000 nuclear tests conducted to date. Disarmament is the best protection against such dangers, but achieving this goal has been a tremendously difficult challenge.

2. Preventive Measures (treaties, bills etc.)

There have been several proposals for regional and international repositories for disposal of high-level nuclear waste, and in 2003 the concept received strong endorsement from the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The European Commission is funding studies to assess the feasibility of European regional waste repositories for countries with relatively little nuclear waste. Arising from these studies, 14 EU countries resolved to set up the European Repository Development Organisation (ERDO) to collaborate on nuclear waste disposal.

Since 2009 the International Framework for Nuclear Energy Cooperation (IFNEC) has focused on possible multinational repositories for their safety, security and environmental benefits.

In May 2016 a high-level commission in South Australia recommended the establishment of an international repository there.

In 2019 IFNEC suggested that it was not timely to develop a multinational repository until national repository projects were more advanced.

In November 2003, Mohamed ElBaradei, Director-General of the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), said to the UN General Assembly: "We should ... consider multinational approaches to the management and disposal of spent fuel and radioactive waste. Over 50 countries currently have spent fuel stored in temporary locations, awaiting reprocessing or disposal.

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.

3. Potential Solutions

- a) Approving of establishment of a committee focused on implementing nuclear safety and maintenance of signed treaties and bills.
- b) Endorse a no first use treaty among all member states to deter nations and international entities resorting to nuclear arsenal for war purposes.

c) Considers initiation of a department based on developing countermeasures and preventives against nuclear weaponry consisting of qualified engineers and scientists.