

BACKGROUND GUIDE UNIC FAIRGAZE National MUN

Committee- UNGA

Agenda- Reducing Nuclear Danger

Letter By Executive Board,

Welcome to the United Nations Human Rights Council being simulated at UNIC Fairgaze Model United Nations conference 2022, where we shall be discussing the agenda 'Reducing Nuclear Danger'. 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.

Regards

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Vice-Chairperson,
Shashwat

Danger of Nuclear weaponry and their disarmament measures.

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.

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.

The United Nations Secretariat supports efforts aimed at the non-proliferation and total elimination of nuclear weapons. “Securing Our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament” considers nuclear weapons in the framework of “disarmament to save humanity.” In the agenda, the Secretary-General calls for resuming dialogue and negotiations for nuclear arms control and

disarmament. He also supports extending the norms against nuclear weapons, and in that regard appeals to States that possess nuclear weapons to affirm that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought. Finally, the agenda proposes preparing for a world free of nuclear weapons through a number of risk-reduction measures, including transparency in nuclear-weapon programmes, further reductions in all types of nuclear weapons, commitments not to introduce new and destabilizing types of nuclear weapons, including cruise missiles, reciprocal commitments for the non-use of nuclear weapons and reduction of the role of nuclear weapons in security doctrines. To further the agenda, concrete actions are proposed.

Treaty on prohibition of nuclear weapons.

Introduction:

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 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.

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was adopted by the Conference (by a vote of 122 States in favour, with one vote against and one abstention) at the United Nations on 7 July 2017, and opened for signature by the Secretary-General of the United Nations on 20 September 2017. Following the deposit with the Secretary-General of the 50th instrument of ratification or accession of the Treaty on 24 October 2020, it entered into force on 22 January 2021 in accordance with its article 15 (1).

Background:

The initiative to seek a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons is an outcome of

the discourse centred on promoting greater awareness and understanding of the humanitarian consequences that would result from any use of nuclear weapons. In recent years, renewed interest in the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons was first manifested in the final document (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I)) of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. In its conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions, the Conference expressed its deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and reaffirmed the need for all States at all times to comply with applicable international law, including international humanitarian law.

In 2012, expressing concern about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, the General Assembly adopted resolution 67/56 entitled "Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations". By this resolution, the Assembly established in 2013 an open-ended working group to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons and the open-ended working group reflected its discussion in its report (A/68/514).

A series of three international conferences on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, convened in 2013 and 2014 respectively in Norway, Mexico and Austria, sought to present a facts-based understanding of the short and longer-term effects of a nuclear weapon detonation.

These conferences, which included participation by a large majority of States, the International Committee of the Red Cross and hundreds of representatives of non-governmental organizations, principally coordinated by the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), played an important role in building demand for urgent action to advance nuclear disarmament negotiations.

Role of United Nations

By its resolution 72/31 of 4 December 2017, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services as may be necessary to fulfil the tasks entrusted to him under the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Under Article 19, the Secretary-General is designated as depository of the Treaty. He is also tasked with the transmission to the States Parties of declarations received pursuant to Article 2 of the Treaty and the convening of Meetings of States Parties and Review Conferences (Article 8).

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

Introduction

The NPT is a landmark 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. The Treaty represents the only binding commitment in a multilateral treaty to the goal of disarmament by the nuclear-weapon States. Opened for signature in 1968, the Treaty entered into force in 1970. On 11 May 1995, the Treaty was extended indefinitely. A total of 191 States have joined the Treaty, including the five nuclear-weapon States. More countries have ratified the NPT than any other arms limitation and disarmament agreement, a testament to the Treaty's significance.

Importance

The Treaty is regarded as the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime and an essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament. It was designed to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, to further the goals of nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament, and to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy

To further the goal of non-proliferation and as a confidence-building measure between States parties, the Treaty establishes a safeguards system under the responsibility of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Safeguards are used to verify compliance with the Treaty through inspections conducted by the IAEA. The Treaty promotes cooperation in the field of peaceful nuclear technology and equal access to this technology for all States parties, while safeguards prevent the diversion of fissile material for weapons use.

Further research

Moving forward, delegates can consider questions such as: How can UNGA increase participation in the nuclear treaty?; How can other UN Bodies help with the treaty's implementation; How investment can be driven to create technology that counters nuclear weaponry.;

This website: <https://www.ici-cij.org/en/case/95>, hosted by UNODA, provides an comprehensive list of treaties signed by various countries, which can assist delegates in their research.

Another UN source that can be used for researching about the legality of threat of nuclear weapons is: <https://www.ici-cij.org/en/case/95>, hosted by International Court of Justice.

Happy preparing delegates!

