



United Nations

POSITION PAPER

COMMITTEE: UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY (UNGA)

TOPIC: REDUCING NUCLEAR DANGER

COUNTRY: DENMARK

DELEGATE NAME: RASHMI NEGI

“The use of Nuclear Weapons doesn’t mean the end of the war, rather it means the start of it”

Denmark is a country in Northern Europe that is made up of the Jutland Peninsula and more than 400 islands that lies in the Northern Sea. The country is nearly two times the size of Massachusetts. Its GDP is \$397.1 billion and carries a complete of the population i.e., 5,856,733 people, the rate of growth in the GDP and population is 4.69% and 0.433% respectively.

The foreign policy of Denmark is based on its identity as a sovereign state in Europe, the Arctic, and the North Atlantic. Its primary foreign policy focuses on its relations with other nations as a sovereign state comprising the three constituent countries: Denmark, Greenland, and the Faroe Islands. Denmark has long had good relations with other nations, and it is a strong supporter of international peacekeeping. Denmark also strongly supported American operations in Afghanistan and has contributed both monetarily and materially to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). These initiatives are a part of the "active foreign policy" of Denmark rather than the traditional adaptive foreign policy of the unity of the Realm, the Kingdom of Denmark is today pursuing an active foreign policy, where human rights, democracy, and other crucial values are to be defended actively.

Denmark has not yet signed or accepted the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapon as it supports the retention and potential use of nuclear weapons on its behalf, as indicated by its endorsement of various alliance statements of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, of which it is a member. Denmark has also voted against an annual UN General Assembly resolution that welcomes the adoption of the treaty and calls upon all states to sign, ratify, or give consent to it “at the earliest possible date”. In June 2021, the minister of foreign affairs of Denmark, Mr. Jeppe Kofod, confirmed that there is no legal barrier to Denmark’s accession to the treaty. However, it would breach NATO “solidarity”, he informed a parliamentary committee.



Denmark did not participate in the negotiation of the treaty at the United Nations in New York in 2017 and thus didn't vote on its adoption. On the opening day of the negotiating conference, it joined the United States and several other states in protesting the treaty-making process.

In 2016, Denmark voted against the UN General Assembly resolution that established the formal decree for states to commence negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit the nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”. The entry into force of the treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, as it is officially called – bans the use, threat of use, development, testing, production, manufacturing, acquisition, possession, or stockpiling of nuclear weapons. It also makes it illegal to assist, encourage or induce anyone, in any way, to engage in any activity prohibited by the Treaty.

Denmark's preamble states that “... the strengthening of international peace and security, the relaxation of international tension, mutual co-operation among all States irrespective of their social and economic systems, general and complete disarmament, particularly, the nuclear disarmament under strict and effective international control.” In addition to being a party to the Convention, Denmark is a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), Article VI of which obliges them to work for global nuclear disarmament. This was affirmed by the International Court of Justice in 1996 as a universal obligation that requires the achievement of the goal of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons under strict and effective international control.

Denmark has accepted obligations under the Non-Proliferation Treaty to not produce nuclear weapons. On the positive side, Denmark has joined the great Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, which involved a treaty to end the production of fissile materials, supported the Stockholm Initiative, and informally advanced a proposal for an Arctic Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone which might include the territories of the circumpolar nations.

But the risk of nuclear war isn't fixed; the right policies and safeguards can help to protect against mistakes, accidents, and poor decision-making—and could work upon this in order to obtain a world free from the nuclear threat.

The solutions and measures which could be adopted in order to reduce nuclear danger are: nuclear weapons are meant to deter nuclear attacks from other countries; However, current policy allows the United States to begin a nuclear war by being the first to use nuclear weapons in a conflict—in response to a non-nuclear attack by North Korea, Russia, or China. A “no-first-use” policy would take this option off the table. The United States could pledge that it will never be the first to use a nuclear weapon, regardless of the circumstances. A total of nine countries possess nuclear weapons. Reducing the danger of nuclear war will require domestic policy changes within all those countries, as well as cooperation and verified agreements between them.

In conclusion, Denmark shares the vision of a world completely without nuclear weapons. A vision we should pursue with vigor. It can, however, only be achieved if we continue to focus on common grounds. Achieving a world without nuclear weapons is a shared responsibility of all States. Our efforts to get there should be inclusive, determined, and goal-oriented.