



**Dear Delegates,**

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the 2014 Montessori Model United Nations Conference.

The following pages intend to guide you in the research of the topics that will be debated at MMUN 2014 in committee sessions. Please note this guide only provides the basis for your investigation. It is your responsibility to find as much information necessary on the topics and how they relate to the country you represent. Such information should help you write your Position Paper, where you need to cite the references in the text and finally list all references in the Modern Language Association (MLA) format.

The more information and understanding you acquire on the two topics, the more you will be able to influence the Resolution writing process through debates [formal and informal caucuses], and the MMUN experience as a whole. Please feel free to contact us if and when you face challenges in your research or formatting your Position Papers.

We encourage you to learn all you can about your topics first and then study your country with regard to the two selected topics. Please remember that both committee members need to be well versed and ready to debate both topics.

Enjoy researching and writing your Position Papers.

We look forward to seeing you at the Conference!

MMUN Secretariat Team

[info@montessori-mun.org](mailto:info@montessori-mun.org)



## **The Security Council**

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Under the Charter, the Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It has 15 Members, and each Member has one vote. Under the Charter, all Member States are obligated to comply with Council decisions.

The Security Council takes the lead in determining the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression. It calls upon the parties to a dispute to settle it by peaceful means and recommends methods of adjustment or terms of settlement. In some cases, the Security Council can resort to imposing sanctions or even authorize the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security.

The Security Council also recommends to the General Assembly the appointment of the Secretary-General and the admission of new Members to the United Nations. And, together with the General Assembly, it elects the judges of the International Court of Justice.

**Source:** <http://www.un.org/en/sc/>

# Nuclear Security

## Topic Background

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Nuclear weapons are the most destructive weapons ever invented by mankind. Nuclear weapons were first used during World War II when the United States bombed the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan. Since World War II, the United Nations Security Council members – China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States – have possessed nuclear weapons. India and Pakistan have also developed nuclear weapons. Israel is suspected of having nuclear weapons and has strategically maintained uncertainty about its status. North Korea has recently conducted nuclear weapons testing, and Iran has been accused of developing nuclear weapons as well. Several countries had nuclear weapons but have since surrendered them or disassembled them, including South Africa and the former Soviet republics of Ukraine and Kazakhstan.<sup>i</sup>

Countries originally developed nuclear weapons for offensive purposes, but soon found out that they could be used for defensive purposes under the concept of deterrence. Countries recognized that they would not want to bomb another country that possesses nuclear weapons because that other country can strike back with a nuclear weapon – this is called mutually assured destruction (MAD). Therefore, other countries that wanted to protect themselves from being bombed started to acquire nuclear weapons in order to deter the powerful countries from attacking them.<sup>ii</sup>

Countries are worried about the spread of nuclear weapons and want to stop other countries from obtaining them. These efforts are called nuclear non-proliferation. The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) has been at the forefront of the movement to establish a nuclear non-proliferation regime and seeks to prevent nuclear weapon states from transferring its nuclear weapons or capabilities to non-nuclear weapons states. The NPT uses the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to help enforce the treaty by monitoring facilities of suspected countries.

The 21st century has also presented new problems. First, nuclear technology can now be used for peaceful, civilian nuclear energy. Many nations believe they have the sovereign right to obtain nuclear energy, but the nuclear weapon states are cautious that these other nations can convert the nuclear technology into nuclear weapons. Second, terrorists and non-state actors have accelerated the nuclear proliferation process by obtaining, selling, and transferring nuclear weapons and technology which can come from scientists from nuclear weapon states or from unsecure stockpiles, especially in the former Soviet Union states.

The nuclear weapon states still possess thousands of nuclear weapons and have not shown much progress in disarmament, and other countries could soon join the list as nuclear weapons states. The UN will have to address these issues as it seeks to create a peaceful world that is ultimately free of nuclear weapons.

## Past Actions

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The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) was signed in 1968, and currently 189 countries have signed it including the UN Security Council Permanent Five members that are allowed to have nuclear weapons under the treaty. Israel, India, and Pakistan have notably not signed the NPT. North Korea was once a signatory to the treaty but withdrew in 2003.

The NPT has three main pillars. The first is non-proliferation, which states that nuclear weapon states will not assist non-nuclear weapon states from acquiring nuclear weapons, and that non-nuclear weapon states will not seek assistance to do so as well. The second pillar is disarmament, with the hope that all nuclear weapon states will eventually disarm themselves from nuclear weapons in the future. The third pillar is the peaceful use of nuclear energy, which means that countries can use nuclear technology and facilities for peaceful purposes.<sup>iii</sup>

The IAEA works with countries through its regular inspections program. The IAEA checks for safeguards of facilities, provides recommendations on how to comply with the NPT, and verifies that nuclear energy is not being developed for nuclear weapons purposes.<sup>iv</sup>

There are two other international treaties and talks that are related to nuclear non-proliferation. One of the treaties between the United States and the then-Soviet Union is the 1973 Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) that led to an Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty<sup>v</sup>. Another one between the United States and Russia is the 1993 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) that placed caps on each side's number of nuclear weapons. More broadly, the 1996 Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) strengthened the NPT by prohibiting the development and testing of nuclear weapons<sup>vi</sup>. Also, many regions have established nuclear weapons free zones (NWFZs) where all countries in that region agree to not have nuclear weapons.

The United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 1540 in April 2004, binding all United Nations member States to take all measures necessary to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destructions (WMDs). UNSC 1540 has been used to ensure that all States and non-State actors do not contribute the proliferation of nuclear materials, and especially for States to adopt international standards in order to prevent the transfer or acquisition of nuclear or related materials<sup>vii</sup>. Most recently in June of 2009, the Security Council issued Resolution 1874 in response to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's nuclear test. UNSC 1874 reiterated States' obligations under the NPT to cooperate in order to prevent the funding of nuclear proliferation activities in non-signatory states. The resolution also mandated a panel of experts to collaborate with relevant bodies in hopes of strengthening the examination of areas of non-compliance. UNSC 1874 was important in that it strengthened the unanimity of the United Nations' commitment to the nuclear non-proliferation regime.<sup>viii</sup>

## Possible Solutions

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There are three main issues in which the United Nations and the international community and affect the issue of nuclear security:



1. **Nuclear Non-Proliferation:** How can the international community prevent countries such as Iran, North Korea, or even Israel from developing or acquiring nuclear weapons? What measures need to be taken to ensure that terrorists and rogue scientists do not help in this process? Solutions for this sub-issue could involve incentives, security guarantees, nuclear weapon free zones, stopping black market trade by terrorists, and compliance with the NPT.
2. **Nuclear Disarmament:** How can the two biggest nuclear states, the United States and Russia, lead the way in disarming their nuclear weapons? What confidence-building measures can be implemented so that two sides mutually comply at reducing their stockpiles at the same time? This also applies for situations such as India-Pakistan, where disarmament is very important because both states border each other and nuclear weapons could be used if a conflict breaks out. Solutions for this sub-issue could include confidence-building measures, disarmament targets, and a plan to protect and eliminate stockpiles.
3. **Nuclear Energy:** How can nuclear weapon states help other countries develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes? At the same time, how can these same countries develop transparency measures to ensure that the nuclear technology is not converted into nuclear weapons? Solutions for this sub-issue include IAEA inspectors and a secure process for transfer of technology.

Nuclear Security affects all countries and peoples around the world. It is imperative for the United Nations and the international community to address this issue in order to guarantee a world safe from nuclear war and able to enjoy the promises of nuclear power peacefully.

## Further Research

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### *Guiding Questions*

- What actions has your country taken to accomplish its obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)?
- How can the international community discourage and enforce other countries from acquiring or developing nuclear weapons?
- How can the IAEA establish greater transparency to ensure that countries are using their nuclear programs for peaceful purposes only?

### *Research Sources*

- UN Office on Disarmament Affairs (UNODA): <http://www.un.org/disarmament/WMD/Nuclear/>
- Security Council Committee 1540 on the non-proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons: <http://www.un.org/en/sc/1540/>
- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA): <http://www.iaea.org/>
- Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty: <http://www.un.org/disarmament/WMD/Nuclear/NPT.shtml>
- Global Policy Forum: The Security Council and Nuclear Weapons: <http://www.globalpolicy.org/component/content/article/185/41129.html>

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<sup>i</sup> International Campaign to abolish nuclear weapons: <http://www.icanw.org/history>

<sup>ii</sup> Jervis, Robert, Richard N. Lebow and Janice G. Stein. 1985. *The Psychology of Deterrence*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. 270 pp.

<sup>iii</sup> Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT): <http://www.un.org/en/conf/npt/2010/npttext.shtml>

<sup>iv</sup> IAEA: <http://www.iaea.org/OurWork/>

<sup>v</sup> Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty: <http://www.armscontrol.org/documents/salt>

<sup>vi</sup> Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization: <http://www.ctbto.org/>

<sup>vii</sup> United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540: <http://www.un.org/en/sc/1540/>

<sup>viii</sup> United Nations Security Council Resolution 1874: <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2009/sc9679.doc.htm>