



Background Paper

Committee: General Assembly of the United Nations

Topic B: Strengthening Non-Proliferation Regimes in the Wake of Emerging Nuclear States

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Currently, nuclear non-proliferation is a central pillar of global security, moreover, the rise of new nuclear states comes with unprecedented challenges. There are an estimated 13,000 nuclear weapons worldwide today, furthermore, the number is growing due to the development of new nuclear powers (Arms Control Association, 2023). While countries such as North Korea, Pakistan, and India now have unlimited nuclear capabilities, while non-proliferation treaties have mainly restricted nuclear powers- the United States, Russia, China, France, and the United Kingdom. According to the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientist, these developments increase regional tensions, the possibility of nuclear incidents, and complicate non-proliferation efforts.

The objective of nuclear non-proliferation is to stop nuclear weapons from spreading to other nations, but since the initial non-proliferation frameworks were established in 1968 due to concerns following post-World War II. Since the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation Nuclear Weapons (NPT) the proliferation scenario has become more complex despite efforts made, for instance, the NPT has encountered difficulties from countries developing nuclear capabilities outside of its bounds despite its efforts, such as North Korea's separation in 2003 following nuclear tests. Since the increasing amount of nuclear powers increases the threats to international security, the issue of nuclear proliferation needs to be addressed. As nuclear power increases so does the risk of nuclear war, which contributes to already-existing geopolitical tensions, and at times regional arms competition. For example, South Korea and Japan are considering upgrading their defense capabilities in response to North Korea's nuclear development. Furthermore, as nuclear technology grows, it becomes harder to distinguish between military and civilian uses,

which increases the risk of nuclear terrorism. The issue persists today as new states seek nuclear capability, especially in areas with high risks of war, for claimed safety advantages. Pressure rises on the Non-Proliferation Nuclear Weapons (NPT)'s three pillars: non-proliferation, disarmament, and peaceful use of nuclear energy—due to the failings in the implementation of International non-proliferation structure and limits.

Over the past few decades, several initiatives have been implemented aimed at limiting the spread of nuclear weapons, for instance, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-ban Treaty (CTBT) which intended to ban nuclear explosions, but it remains ineffective as major states such as the United States have not signed. Meanwhile, even though its reach is limited to the United States and Russia, The Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) reduced the nuclear storage of these two powers. Additionally, there are continuous diplomatic initiatives to stop Iran from gathering nuclear weapons such as the 2015 Iran Nuclear Deal. However, these initiatives require adjusting and straightening to geopolitical complexity.

The focus of this debate is to find ways to improve international compliance and strengthen non-proliferation standards. Additionally, to discuss the possibility of weapon reduction in dangerous areas. Delegates should find ways to encourage non-nuclear armed states to follow non-proliferation standards, analyze how improvements in technology can contribute to proliferation, moderate the spread of nuclear weapons, and protect international stability. Delegates, we believe that you can find a solution for this worldwide issue.

“Peace is not absence of conflict, it is the ability to handle conflict by peaceful means”

-Ronald Reagan

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