

SECURITY COUNCIL (SC)

TOPIC A:

The question of avoiding a worldwide nuclear arms race.



I. Introduction of Topic:

Avoiding a nuclear arms race has been an extremely relevant goal in arms control and international relations. A few months after the use of the atomic bomb developed in 1942 and used in Hiroshima and Nagasaki on the 6th and 9th of August 1945 respectively, the scientists who helped develop the bomb formed the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists which is an organization that alerted the whole world of the dangers and consequences of nuclear weaponry (*Khan*). The development of the bomb also led to an arms race between the US and the Soviet Union, which greatly impacted not only the states themselves but millions of civilians who became anxious. To date, 191 countries have signed the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty, including the five nuclear-weapon states (*UNODA*). However, concerns regarding the use of nuclear weapons remain a very relevant issue in today's world, and to tackle this issue, resolutions and agreements between countries are necessary.

II. Definition of Key Terms:

Nuclear Deterrence: The strategy of discouraging an adversary from taking a particular action by maintaining a credible threat of nuclear retaliation.

Proliferation: The spread of nuclear weapons to additional countries or entities beyond the original nuclear-armed states.

Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT): A landmark international treaty aimed at preventing the spread of nuclear weapons and promoting cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Arms Control: Measures and agreements designed to limit the development, deployment, and use of military weapons, including nuclear arms.

Disarmament: The reduction or elimination of military forces and weapons, with a particular focus on nuclear disarmament in the context of nuclear weapons.

Mutual Assured Destruction (MAD): A concept suggesting that both superpowers in a conflict would face total destruction in the event of a nuclear war, acting as a deterrent against initiating such a conflict.

Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT): A series of bilateral talks between the United States and the Soviet Union aimed at limiting the growth of their nuclear arsenals.

Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START): A series of agreements between the U.S. and Russia (formerly the Soviet Union) aimed at reducing the number of deployed strategic nuclear weapons.

New START Treaty: An arms reduction treaty between the United States and Russia that places limits on the number of deployed strategic nuclear weapons.

Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (NWFZ): A region where countries commit not to develop, acquire, or possess nuclear weapons. Examples include Latin America, the South Pacific, and Africa.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA): An international organization tasked with promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy and preventing the diversion of nuclear materials for military purposes.

Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT): A treaty that aims to ban all nuclear explosions for both civilian and military purposes, although it has not yet entered into force.

Nuclear Triad: The capability of a nation to deliver nuclear weapons using three components: land-based missiles, submarine-launched missiles, and strategic bombers.

Nuclear Umbrella: The security guarantee provided by a nuclear-armed state to its allies, assuring them protection under its nuclear capabilities.

Nuclear Terrorism: The use or threat of use of nuclear weapons or materials by non-state actors for terrorist purposes.

(Weblord)

III. Background Information

Since the US's development and testing of a hydrogen bomb during WW2, it committed to an escalating arms race with the Soviet Union which increased feelings of tension and anxiety in civilians (*Khan*).

In 1950, the US National Security Council released a secret policy paper called NSC-68, which defined US defense strategy throughout the Cold War (*Khan*). One of the main claims in this paper was that the Soviet threat would be alarmingly increased due to the addition of both non-nuclear and nuclear weapons to their arsenal, and the only way to properly respond to this threat would be to build up an intimidating military and arsenal (*Office*). It's imperative to note that NSC-68 remained classified until 1975, and since 1949 (which is the year in which the Soviet Union successfully exploded an atomic bomb) the US followed the NSC-68 policy which promoted the stockpiling of weapons.

The nuclear arms race between the Soviet Union and the United States of America operated on the theory of Mutually Assured Destruction (the idea that by owning more weaponry, the other side will be deterred from using their own to avoid being mutually destroyed), and by doing so both sides expended exorbitant amounts of money and resources to compete with each other. The nuclear arms race caused feelings of anxiety and panic in both American and Soviet peoples, and in secondary countries which were also involved similar feelings of terror were experienced by the civilians. This led to acts of desperation and generally caused tension in people's lifestyles and understanding of the historical

IV. Major countries and agencies involved in the issue:

United States:

As one of the first countries to develop and use nuclear weapons during World War II (in 1945), the United States continued to advance its nuclear capabilities throughout the Cold War. The U.S. engaged in a series of arms control negotiations with the Soviet Union, including the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) and the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) agreements.

Soviet Union (Russia):

The Soviet Union, which emerged as a nuclear power shortly after World War II, engaged in a rapid and expansive nuclear weapons program. The Cold War rivalry with the United States led to the accumulation of a substantial nuclear arsenal. After the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, Russia inherited its nuclear arsenal and continued to be a major player in arms control efforts.

China:

China conducted its first nuclear test in 1964 and continued to develop its nuclear capabilities, although it maintained a policy of minimal deterrence. China later became a recognized nuclear-armed state and participated in arms control discussions.

United Kingdom:

The United Kingdom conducted its first nuclear test in 1952 and subsequently developed its nuclear arsenal. The UK has maintained a nuclear deterrent through its Trident missile system.

France:

France conducted its first nuclear test in 1960 and developed an independent nuclear deterrent. France has pursued an independent nuclear policy and has not joined the NATO-integrated military structure.

India:

India conducted its first nuclear test in 1974 and later declared itself a nuclear-armed state. India has since developed its nuclear capabilities, citing regional security concerns as a rationale for its nuclear posture.

North Korea:

North Korea, despite international opposition, pursued a nuclear weapons program and conducted multiple nuclear tests. The secretive nature of North Korea's nuclear activities has been a source of global concern.

V. Previous resolutions and decisions:

https://treaties.un.org/doc/Treaties/2017/07/20170707%2003-42%20PM/Ch_XXVI_9.pdf

<https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com23/resolutions/L23.pdf>

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