

# **Security Council**

**(SC)**

## **Topic A:**

**The question of achieving the abolition of the use of biological and nuclear weapons.**



### **I. Introduction of Topic**

The question of achieving the abolition of biological and nuclear weapons has been an ongoing goal for the UN for over 70 years since the first employment of the nuclear bomb in 1945 during World War II. On August 6, 1945, The United States detonates an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan, causing more than 140,000 casualties within months from direct impact and radiation-related illnesses. On August 9th, a second bomb was dropped in Nagasaki, Japan causing 74,000 people to die by the end of 1945. The effects of nuclear weapons have resulted in mass destruction and clear violations of the right to life. The United Nations set the goal of eliminating nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in its very first resolution, UN Res 1 (1), which was unanimously accepted on January 24, 1946.

During World War II, the employment of biological weapons occurred, from which tens of thousands of deaths resulted from the deliberate release of pathogens or toxins by the Japanese in China. Instances in which biological weapons have been used are in World War I in which Germany initiated a clandestine program to infect the Allies' horses on the western and eastern fronts. The majority of nations ratified the 1925 Geneva Protocol prohibiting the use of biological and chemical weapons in conflict as a result of the horrors of World War I. Nevertheless, one of the protocol's signatory

parties, Japan, carried out an intensive program of research, development, production, and testing in the field of biological warfare. Between 1937 and 1945, Japan in fact used biological weapons against Allied forces in China, violating the treaty. The Conference of the Committee on Disarmament in Geneva, Switzerland, discussed The Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) which became eligible for signature on April 10, 1972, and went into effect on March 26, 1975. The Geneva Protocol from 1925, which solely forbade the use of biological weapons, is supplemented by the BWC.

## **II. Definition of Key Terms**

Achieving the abolition: making sure all countries don't threaten each other nor have the possibility of using the following weapons that may destroy populations and overall world peace.

Biological weapons: they may be viruses, bacteria, or fungi, or toxic substances which are produced and released to cause diseases and deaths deliberately in all living organisms including humans, plants and animals.

Nuclear weapons: they are weapons which are created to release energy explosively through nuclear fission, fusion or a combination of both.

## **III. Background Information**

Countries have been engaged in arms control measures as early as the end of the cold war, because of the dangers these bring out, socially, politically, economically and systematically. The Hiroshima and Nagasaki explosions of 1945, for instance,

caused the death of 105,000 citizens, and with this, the country suffered concerning economic crisis, as they lost 884,100,000 yen which is equivalent to 6,098,521 euros.

There are currently around 12,705 nuclear weapons remaining within our society as of 2022 and 2,056 nuclear tests have been conducted in the same year. Moreover, countries are continuously threatening each other with these weapons instead of solving problems pragmatically and diplomatically.

#### **IV. Major Countries and Organisations Involved**

##### National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA):

Key national security strategic goals of the United States include preventing the spread of nuclear weapons and lowering the threat of nuclear and radiological terrorism globally. Achieving these goals calls for ongoing vigilance. The Office of Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation works to stop state and non-state actors from developing nuclear weapons or obtaining materials, tools, expertise, or equipment that could be used to make such weapons.

##### Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO):

Nuclear explosions are forbidden worldwide by the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), including above, below, and underground. The worldwide framework for nuclear weapons control and disarmament must include the CTBT. A crucial phase in the creation of nuclear weapons is nuclear testing. By putting an end to this, the CTBT controls all nuclear weapon proliferation, including the development of nuclear weapons

by nations without them already, the modernization of existing nuclear arsenals, and the development of new, more sophisticated generations of nuclear weapons.

Office of Chemical and Biological Weapons Threat Reduction:

This office was created by combining the Nonproliferation Office with the AC Chemical and Biological Weapons Conventions Office (AC/CB). Its responsibility is to take the initiative in carrying out initiatives to counter the threat posed by biological and chemical weapons and to discourage and hinder nations and other entities from developing, using, and/or spreading these weapons and the associated tools and technologies. It is in charge of leading bilateral and international efforts to put the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) and the Chemical Weapons Convention into effect and strengthen them (CWC).

Biological Weapons Convention (BWC):

The creation, production, acquisition, transfer, stockpiling, and use of biological and toxin weapons are all expressly prohibited by the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC). It was the first international disarmament agreement to outlaw a specific class of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). The BWC has established a strong norm against biological weapons and is a vital component of the international community's efforts to control the proliferation of WMD. With 184 States Parties and four Signatory States, the Convention has almost universal membership.

United States of America:

The bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki during World War II were carried out by the United States, which also holds the distinction of being the only nation to have ever

deployed nuclear weapons in a conflict. It carried out 1,054 nuclear tests before and during the Cold War and tested numerous long-range nuclear weapons delivery systems.

#### The Russian Federation:

As of 2022, Russia had a total of 5,977 nuclear warheads, making it the country with the greatest arsenal; the United States came in second with 5,428 warheads. In comparison to the United States' 1,644 deployed missiles, Russia has around 1,588. The remaining weapons are either in reserve stocks or are about to be dismantled since they have been retired from potential use in the Cold War.

#### Japan:

Inflicting plague, cholera, anthrax, glanders, and other diseases on Chinese civilians during World War II led to the deaths of thousands of people. In the 1930s, the Japanese Imperial Army started funding a Manchurian biological weapons

## **V. Timeline of Events**

### 1925 November 17: Geneva Protocol

A Geneva Protocol forbidding the use of bacteriological and chemical weapons is drafted by delegates in Switzerland. The protocol is ratified by 39 nations.

### 1934: International Research on Biological Weapons

The United Kingdom starts the process of building its own biological weapons research program.

1940: The Ping Fan biological weapons complex in Japan gets going. Under Ishii's leadership, it has about 3,000 employees working on a variety of biological agents,

August 1942: Manhattan Project

The United States initiates the Manhattan Project to develop the first nuclear weapon

1945 August 6: US drops atomic bomb on Hiroshima

1945 August 9: Second bomb is dropped on Nagasaki

1945 September 2: The Atomic Bomb and the End of World War II

After the atomic bombs are dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan formally submits to American rule, ending World War II.

1946 January 24: UN demands the abolition of nuclear weapons

The UN General Assembly establishes a commission to study nuclear weapons in its first resolution.

1949 August 29: Soviet Union conducts its first nuclear weapon test

The Soviet Union detonates a nuclear weapon becoming the second nation to create and successfully test a nuclear weapon.

1963 August 5: The Partial Test Ban Treaty

Following significant anti-nuclear testing protests in Europe and America, a treaty forbidding nuclear testing in the atmosphere, outer space, and underwater is signed in Moscow.

1968 July 1: The Non-Proliferation Treaty becomes available for signature.

By signing the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, nuclear-weapon states formally commit to disarming, and non-nuclear-weapon states pledge never to acquire nuclear weapons.

1986 October 11, 12: US and Soviet leaders discuss abolition

Meeting in Reykjavik, Iceland, US President Ronald Reagan and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev have a discussion on the prospect of achieving nuclear abolition.

1987: In resolution A/42/37 C, The UNSGM's mission is to conduct prompt investigations in response to claims of the potential use of chemical, biological, and toxin weapons that may be a violation of the 1925 Geneva Protocol.

1988: Resolution 620 condemns the use of chemical weapons in the conflict between Iran and Iraq, in contravention of the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare

1996 September 24: Total prohibition on nuclear testing is open for signature  
At the UN, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty is made available for signing. The treaty is signed by China, France, the United Kingdom, Russia, and the United States. India claims it won't ratify the treaty.

2004: The Security Council decided in resolution 1540 that all States must abstain from giving any kind of assistance to non-state actors who try to create, obtain, manufacture, possess, transfer, or use nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons.

## **VI. Relevant UN Treaties and Events**

### **Treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons:**

Adopted on 7 July 2017, and opened for signature by the Secretary-General of the United Nations on 20 September 2017(Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons – UNODA, 2017)

The official UN website states that the treaty “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” (Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons – UNODA, 2017)

**Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT):** The NPT was adopted on July 2nd 1968 and signed by the Soviet Union, United States of America, United Kingdom and 40 other co-signers. Its goal has been to eliminate the dangerous use of nuclear weapons and therefore achieve total nuclear disarmament whilst promoting cooperation in the sustainable and positive development of nuclear energy.

## **VII. Main Issues**

Problems including attacks and overall disruption on world peace has been a direct effect of nuclear weapons as a whole, but has risen in the past few years, going back to extreme levels that have only ever been seen in WWI and WWII. Secondary effects including poverty, famine, and destruction of biodiversity and habitats are also present.

Solutions to this problem including the abolition of nuclear weapons worldwide would cause immense diplomatic conflict which may or may not lead to dangerous consequences.

## **VIII. Previous Attempts to solve the Issue**

### UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)

The Security Council decided in resolution 1540 (2004) that all States must abstain from giving any kind of assistance to non-state actors who try to create, obtain, manufacture, possess, transfer, or use nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons or their delivery systems, particularly for terrorist purposes. In order to prevent the spread of these weapons and their delivery systems to non-State actors, especially for terrorist objectives, the resolution calls on all States to establish and implement the necessary regulations in this regard.

### UN Security Council Resolution A/42/37 C (1987)

The UN General Assembly established the Secretary-Mechanism General's (UNSGM) with resolution A/42/37 C (1987), and the Security Council reaffirmed it with resolution 620 (1988). The UNSGM's mission is to conduct prompt investigations in response to

claims of the potential use of chemical, biological, and toxin weapons that may be a violation of the 1925 Geneva Protocol or other pertinent rules of customary international law.

#### UN Security Council Resolution 620 (1988)

Resolution 620 condemns the use of chemical weapons in the conflict between Iran and Iraq, in contravention of the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed at Geneva on June 17, 1925, and in disregard of its resolution 612 (1988); urges the Secretary-General to conduct prompt investigations in response to claims brought to his attention by any Member State.

## **IX. Possible Solutions**

Possible solutions are outlined by the United States Draft of September 11, 2009 for the Nuclear Nonproliferation and Nuclear Disarmament:

- 1) Resolving to want to make the world safer for everyone and to set up the conditions for a nuclear-weapons-free future in line with the objectives of the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT):
  - a) according to a strategy that supports global peace and on the premise of undiminished security for all
- 2) Reiterating the necessity for all Member States to uphold their commitments to disarmament and arms control, as well as to prevent the proliferation of all WMDs in all of their forms, including but not limited to:
  - a) Nuclear weapons

- b) Biological weapons
- 3) Reaffirming its steadfast support for the NPT and belief that the global nuclear non-proliferation regime needs to be maintained and strengthened to ensure effective implementation,
- 4) Welcoming the nuclear armaments reduction and disarmament initiatives made and successful by nuclear-weapon States and highlighting the necessity to continue.

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