



TOPIC 2

Creating guidelines for the usage of nuclear weapons

Committee: **DISEC**

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Introduction

The creation of nuclear weapons in 1945 changed the game of war as they knew it. Nuclear weapons are capable of mass destruction in an instant and continue terrorizing the area for tens of years. We can see an example of this being Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Only a hundred, or so, nuclear bombs can wipe out life on Earth as we know it, and with tens of thousands in stocks in various countries, our life's fate can be decided in a matter of minutes or even seconds. Since 1945, the abilities of nuclear weapons have vastly improved, with the creation, and implementation of ICBM missiles in the same year, the USA started replicating and testing the ability to combine nuclear weaponry with the new ballistic missile technology, with the world closely following behind. Nowadays, we can see nuclear bombs that are capable of wiping out entire cities and surrounding areas in a split second, and carry deadly radiation all over the continent, easily making it an international disaster, and crippling the enemy, and the civilian population's abilities instantly.

The United Nations has previously discussed this matter many times. We can look at the example - The treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons. By resolution 71/258, the General Assembly decided to convene 2017 a United Nations conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading toward their total elimination. To quote "The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) 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. States parties will be obliged to prevent and suppress any activity prohibited under the TPNW undertaken by persons or on territory under its jurisdiction or control. The Treaty also obliges States parties to provide adequate assistance to individuals affected by the use or testing of nuclear weapons, as well as to take necessary and appropriate measures of environmental remediation in areas under its jurisdiction or control contaminated as a result of activities related to the testing or use of nuclear weapons." (UN.org, 2017) There are many countries, such as Germany, which are heading into full denuclearization. We can observe this on the side of civilian nuclear power, as well as a military nuclear power. Contrariwise, some nations, such as Iran convene in covert operations in an attempt to sneak around sanctions, imposed limitations, and international agreements in order to develop nuclear weapons. The world view currently seems divided, and with recent developments, we can see this treaty often violated. One of the points is not to use nuclear weapons to threaten, whereas some weeks ago, repetitively, a certain nation used nuclear weapons for intimidation over and over. Regardless of the current state, we can see a steady decrease in nuclear weapon holdings of every nation in the world, except China, in accordance with the treaty.

Moving forward, it is imperative to prepare for the worst-case scenario, and as such, there, at the very least, needs to be certain guidelines for the usage of nuclear weapons. While there are many topics concerning the limiting, destruction, and other manipulation of nuclear weapons, it

is not often found to discuss the use and guidelines for the use of nuclear weapons, for example in a conflict, therefore, it is up to You delegates to find a resolution to this pressing matter. While looking to reach a consensus amongst the committee, you should consult the key questions and key terms.

Key questions

- Does this resolution not show bias towards any particular side of the conflict and ensures that the security concerns of both sides are met?
- Are there safeguards in place for any signatory that does not meet the demands of the solution?
- Are there enough safety nets in place to prevent mass civilian casualties, or the end of the Earth? In terms of access to usage of nuclear weapons, the necessary expertise, etc...

Key Terms

- Nuclear weapons

Commonly known as 'weapons of mass destruction - A nuclear weapon operates on the basis of utilizing nuclear reactions to produce an explosion of enormous proportions. Smaller nuclear weapons are often favored as they can result in more precise strikes and are more cost-effective to produce.

- Uranium

Uranium-235, a key ingredient in the production of Nuclear weapons, is a highly radioactive element, acquiring such elements is both difficult and dangerous.

- Nuclear proliferation

The expansion of nuclear activity within a country that does not at the moment possess any nuclear weapons, however, is on the road to acquiring them

- Escalation

An intensification between the relations of two states whose interests are mutually opposed to each other, either politically or strategically

- NFWZ (Nuclear-free weapons zone)

A zone in which countries agree and commit themselves to not manufacturing any nuclear weapons. Usually, such treaties are done in conjunction with the General assembly of the UN.

- Nuclear fallout

The radioactive particles fall to the ground in the aftermath of a nuclear explosion. Such materials include weapon debris, fission products, radiated soil, and ground burst. Both pose enormous ecological and humanitarian threats as this leads to dramatically increased cancer rates, as well as famine due to a lack of being able to plant anything.

- ICBM

An ICBM (intercontinental ballistic missile) is a nuclear-armed device capable of traveling 5600km and hitting a designated target across the globe.

- IAEA

The International Atomic Energy Agency is an intergovernmental organization that seeks to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy and to inhibit its use for any military purpose, including nuclear weapons.

- The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)

A comprehensive set of prohibitions on participating countries in any nuclear weapon activities.

- Hiroshima and Nagasaki

The United States detonated two atomic bombs over the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on 6 and 9 August 1945, respectively.