



Background Paper

Committee: AD-HOC

Topic: Discussing Measures to Stop Nuclear Proliferation

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Nuclear Proliferation is described as the expansion of nuclear weapons or technology to those nations who still have not been able to possess them, as well as possible terrorist groups getting them. Up to date, there are only nine countries that have nuclear weapons: Russia, the United States, the United Kingdom, Pakistan, Israel, China, France, India, and North Korea. Some actions have been taken, the most important the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) along with other treaties and agreements signed by nations. However, although nuclear weapons have not increased since the Cold War, the situation is not changing as fast as it should. It is relevant that all the delegations discuss and create new plans to make this transition more efficient and solve the different setbacks that are impeding a complete non-proliferated world.

One major problem that the NPT has is that not all countries have signed this treaty. Israel, Pakistan, and India have decided not to sign this treaty, and North Korea decided to abandon the treaty in 2003. These nations being apart from the agreement have not made any contribution to a world without nuclear weapons. Even though some approaches have been made to solve the situation of these four countries, nothing has been arranged, and with issues like tension in the regions in which India and Pakistan are located, Israel's lack of transparency in their nuclear capability, and the expansion of these countries' nuclear arsenals, is making more difficult the negotiations with these nations. Besides, there have been tensions between nations with nuclear weapons and those who do not, since the disarmament of these countries is not going as fast as they would want it to. This added to the unwillingness of the delegations with

nuclear weapons to give them up, due to the deterrent that having them represent against attacks, is not helping the treaty achieve its purpose.

Another concern about this issue is the redirection of peaceful nuclear programs for military use. This is very feasible since the processes and materials used in these reactors, which have the purpose of creating energy, are the same as the ones used to create nuclear weapons, that is why it is very simple to turn all that unharming technology into a lethal weapon. Even though the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is working hard so this will not happen, countries can still have hidden nuclear facilities and materials, in which they can develop their own nuclear weapons. In order to fight this issue, safeguard agreements have been made and signed by around 150 nations, however, this is just a small step towards stopping these concealed activities.

The ambiguity and age of the NPT have made it more likely for countries to get nuclear weapons. One example of this is that the treaty does not forbid delegations from possessing these nuclear weapons, it just forbids the acquisition of them. Also, the treaty has no sanctions established for countries who violate or withdraw from the agreement, and it does not prohibit the use of nuclear energy for military purposes. These different interpretations that have been made of the treaty have led to many challenges regarding the implementation of the NPT. The creators of the treaty did not design it so it could evolve correctly with time and with current global trends. The purpose of the Non-Proliferation Treaty is to stop nuclear proliferation, nevertheless, with the world constantly changing, and conflicts and tensions appearing constantly, this treaty is getting obsolete to solving these nowadays issues regarding the issue it is trying to solve.

In order to solve this issue, countries need to discuss and propose new solutions and restrictions, along with ways to include the rest of the missing countries in the treaty and prevent others from leaving. Tensions between countries have made the resolution of this issue even harder than it already is and new concerns about the topic are coming up. To live in a safer and peaceful world is clear that nuclear proliferation needs a resolution.

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