International Atomic Energy Agency

Chair: Josephine Yasuda

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Letter from the Dias

Dear Delegates,

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that we extend a warm welcome to each of you as you join us for this year's IAEA committee. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has long been at the forefront of international cooperation on nuclear technology and global safety, and this committee serves as a testament to our collective dedication to these principles. Your expertise, perspectives, and passion will undoubtedly contribute to the rich and meaningful discussions that lie ahead.

I wholeheartedly encourage you to embrace the opportunity to debate and collaborate and pursue a unique and creative pursuit throughout our time together. We hope that during your time here, you will not only engage in the important work before us but also take the time to connect with fellow delegates, explore new perspectives, and perhaps even forge lasting friendships.

I look forward to a spirited debate and inspiring contributions that you will undoubtedly make.

Sincerely,

Josephine Yasuda

Letter from the Dias

Hello delegates! My name is Minyoung Kim and I am so excited to be chairing Bearmun's IAEA general assembly. I am a junior majoring in Political Science and minoring in Public Policy. Prior to this year, I have served as the chair for the Cuban Crisis in last year's Bearmun as well as the Chief of Staff Internal for UCBMUN XXVIII. As a General Assembly delegate myself, I am excited to co-chair this committee with my good friend Josephine. We are both expecting a talented group of minds to bring real world solutions through the power of intuitive policy making and collaborative delegating. I cannot wait to see what ideas will be shared in the upcoming future.

Best,

Minyoung Kim

Important Disclaimer

ModelUN at University of California Berkeley and BearMUN have a zero-tolerance policy for harassment and discrimination. We are committed to providing a safe and dignified environment for conference attendees, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, religion, or any other aspect of their identity. Some committees may be discussing topics that contain sensitive topics, but delegates must not use insensitive or discriminatory language. Discriminatory or harassive directives, resolutions, speeches, notes, conversations, and all other forms of communication within or outside of official committee sessions will not be tolerated. If you have any questions or would like to report an incident anonymously, please report any instances here. As this committee concerns itself with environmental policies and nuclear topics, any directives, resolutions, speeches, notes and conversation which harmfully refer to historical instances are strictly prohibited.

Committee Details: What is the IAEA Committee

Welcome to the UN International Atomic Energy Agency! This committee will focus on nuclear energy in the modern setting with a focus on the decision making behind adopting nuclear power. The committee will focus on the following two topics: nuclear disarmament and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. With the power to destroy the world, nuclear proliferation has led to the defining moments of international destruction seen within the history of mankind. As states begin to arm themselves with nuclear weapons as a mode of international bargaining, the balance between threat and negotiation remains subtle. On the other hand, development of nuclear energy has led to some of the most sustainable practices of energy production. Overshadowed largely due to the historical disasters surrounding nuclear energy, it remains a minority portion of the energy sector of the world today. Delegates will be expected to bring solutions inviting international cooperation and define what the ideal future of nuclear energy will shape out to be.

Procedural Overview

This committee will abide by all Bearmun Rules of Procedure; however, the chairs will retain the discretion to make final decisions concerning committee flow. We want to ensure an equally enriching experience for all delegates involved with equitable participation. If you are ever uncertain about procedure, feel free to ask the dias or raise a Point of Parliamentary Inquiry. We will do our best to accommodate everyone.

While in-room notes are permitted, UCBMUN policy makes it expressly clear that we have a zero-tolerance policy for any harassment via notes. If you feel uncomfortable with a note sent to you, please bring it up to the dais as soon as possible. Notes containing unacceptable content are prohibited, and all final decisions on this regard are the dais's discretion. If you have further questions on what constitutes acceptability, feel free to reach out to UCBMUN staff.

Finally, the dias recognizes the discussions regarding nuclear warfare, detriment, and fatality to be a present topic within this committee. As a sensitive issue, we advise delegates to be respectful in addressing the topics and issues at hand. The Chairs will clarify what is and is not appropriate in committee during the first committee session. If any delegates are unsure whether or not something is appropriate, they should feel comfortable asking the dais for clarification.

Historical Context

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was founded in 1957 as a reaction to increasing anxieties harbored by a proliferation of nuclear technology. Birthed by US President Eisenhower's Statute, IAEA was proposed by his address following the revolutionary split of the atom. The IAEA's focus is heavily linked to the development of nuclear technology alongside it's ambiguities both scientifically and morally. It aims to organize human usage of nuclear technology through government, legal and regulatory framework. The IAEA thus concerns itself with nuclear installation safety, radiation protection and the security of radioactive material. Additional jurisdictions of IAEA are discarding radioactive waste, fuel management and preparedness and risk prevention through developing emergency safeguards. Despite being primarily concerned with nuclear technology, IAEA's mission expansively covers larger realms such as energy, health, climate change, agriculture, science and similar resources.

IAEA was thus founded with the goal of safely promoting nuclear technology with peaceful constraints by controling the usage of the atom:

"*The Agency shall seek to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world. It shall ensure, so far as it is able, that assistance provided by it or at its request or under its supervision or control is not used in such a way as to further any military purpose.*" (Article II, IAEA Statute).

(International Atomic Energy Agency - the atoms for peace and development organization. (n.d.). https://www.ungm.org/Shared/KnowledgeCenter/Pages/IAEA)

With the first headquarters built in Vienna, Austria, the IAEA grounded itself until other offices were founded in Japan, New York City, and Switzerland. All locations concern itself with either the mission of the IAEA, with specific laboratories in Austria and Monaco specialising in nuclear technology. Although the IAEA was founded in a time of international tensions, the committee itself continues to pursue the safety and promotion of the atom across all it's uses.

Topic 1: International Nuclear Non-Proliferation

The split of the atom created an entirely new realm of consideration in regards to international safety and responsibility. The proliferation of nuclear weapons and technology poses significant risks to international peace, security, and stability. To address these risks, the international community has established various treaties and agreements, with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) from the United Nations being the most pivotal[1].

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

The NPT, a cornerstone of global nuclear non-proliferation efforts, is an international treaty designed to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament. Since its inception, the NPT has been instrumental in shaping international norms and policies related to nuclear weapons.

History and Significance

The NPT was opened for signature on July 1, 1968, and entered into force on March 5, 1970. It remains the most widely adhered-to arms control agreement in history, with 191 States Parties, including the five recognized nuclear-weapon States: the United States, Russia, China, France, and the United Kingdom[2]. The treaty was extended indefinitely on

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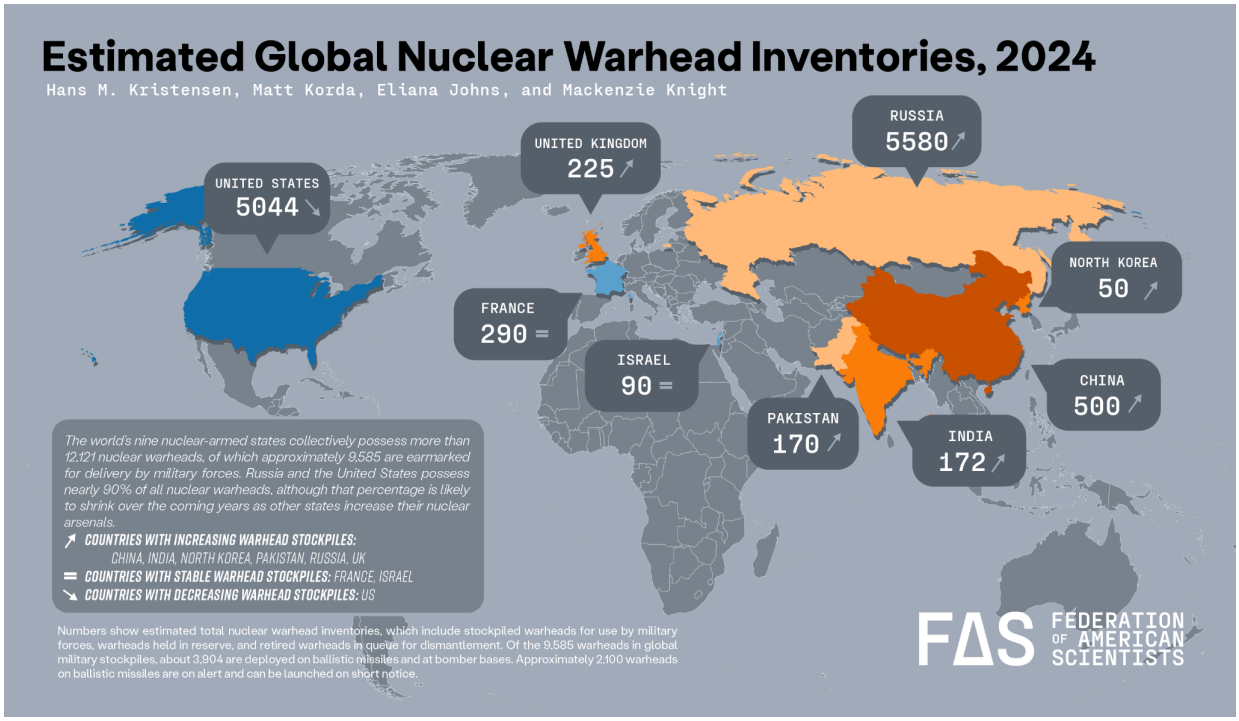
[1] *Treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons (NPT)*. United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. (n.d.). https://disarmament.unoda.org/wmd/nuclear/npt/

[2] United Nations. (n.d.-b). *UNTC*. United Nations. https://treaties.un.org/pages/showDetails.aspx?objid=08000002801d56c5



(*Status of World Nuclear Forces*. Federation of American Scientists. (2024, June 10). https://fas.org/initiative/status-world-nuclear-forces/)

May 11, 1995, further solidifying its importance in international law and diplomacy[3]. The NPT represents the only binding commitment in a multilateral treaty to the goal of disarmament by nuclear-weapon States. Its significance is underscored by the broad international consensus it has garnered, with more countries ratifying the NPT than any other arms limitation and disarmament agreement. It is built upon three main pillars of non-proliferation, disarmament and peaceful use[4]. The primary objective of the NPT is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology. States without nuclear weapons commit not to acquire them, while nuclear-weapon States agree not to transfer nuclear weapons or technology to non-nuclear-weapon States. The

[3] U.S. Department of State. (n.d.-a). U.S. Department of State. https://history.state.gov/milestones/1961-1968/npt
[4] United Nations. (n.d.-b). *UNTC*. United Nations. https://treaties.un.org/pages/showDetails.aspx?objid=08000002801d56c5

NPT includes a commitment by all signatories, particularly nuclear-weapon States, to pursue nuclear disarmament. Although progress could be considered as having been slow, the treaty provides a legal framework for advancing towards a world without nuclear weapons. Finally, the NPT promotes cooperation in the field of peaceful nuclear technology. It ensures that all States Parties have the right to access nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, provided they comply with the treaty's non-proliferation obligations. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) plays a crucial role in verifying that nuclear technology is not diverted for military purposes[5]. To ensure compliance with the NPT, the treaty establishes a comprehensive safeguards system under the responsibility of the IAEA. These safeguards are designed to verify that States Parties are not diverting nuclear material from peaceful activities to the development of nuclear weapons[6]. IAEA inspections and monitoring activities are vital for maintaining transparency and building confidence among States Parties[7].

Recognized Nuclear-Weapon States Under the NPT

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) recognizes five countries as nuclear-weapon States (NWS): the United States, Russia, China, France, and the United Kingdom[8].

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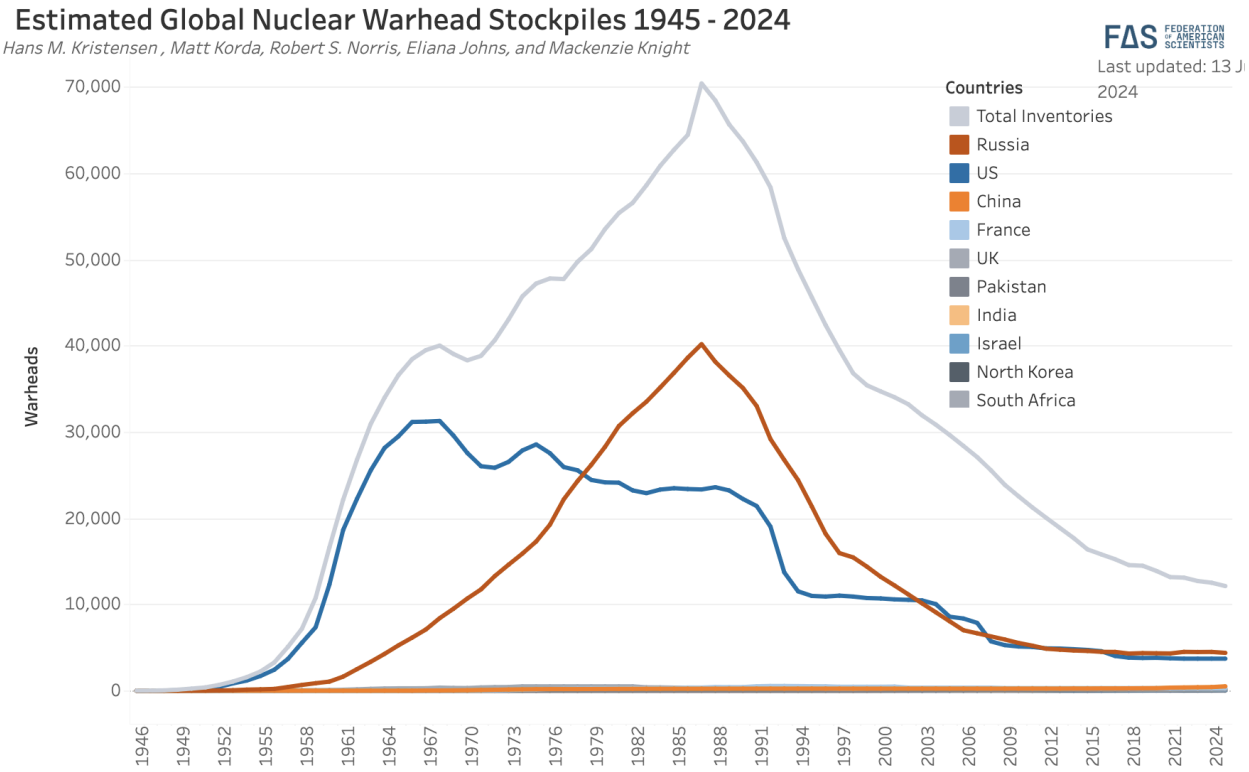
[5] IAEA. (2014, July 7). *IAEA safeguards overview*. IAEA. https://www.iaea.org/publications/factsheets/iaea-safeguards-overview

[6] *Ibid.*
[7] *Ibid.*
[8] *Treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons (NPT)*. United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. (n.d.). https://disarmament.unoda.org/wmd/nuclear/npt/



(*Status of World Nuclear Forces*. Federation of American Scientists. (2024, June 10). https://fas.org/initiative/status-world-nuclear-forces/)

These nations are acknowledged under the treaty as having manufactured and exploded a nuclear weapon or other nuclear explosive device before January 1, 1967. As the only countries legally permitted to possess nuclear weapons under the NPT, they bear the majority of responsibility to work towards nuclear disarmament and to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons to other states.

The recognition of these five states as nuclear-weapon States under the NPT is a reflection of the geopolitical realities at the time of the treaty's negotiation in the late 1960s. This recognition also comes with a commitment from these states to pursue good faith efforts towards nuclear disarmament. Despite their status, these states are obligated not to transfer nuclear weapons or

other nuclear explosive devices to any non-nuclear-weapon State, nor to assist, encourage, or induce any non-nuclear-weapon State to manufacture or acquire them[9].

The status of the five recognized nuclear-weapon States is a significant aspect of the NPT, as it creates a legal distinction between these states and the rest of the international community, which is prohibited from developing or acquiring nuclear weapons. This distinction has been a source of tension, as some non-nuclear-weapon States perceive it as enshrining an unequal and potentially indefinite division between nuclear and non-nuclear states. Nevertheless, the inclusion of these five nuclear-weapon States in the NPT framework is critical for the global non-proliferation regime, as it brings them into a legally binding system aimed at curbing the spread of nuclear weapons and working toward eventual disarmament.

Challenges and Future Considerations

While the NPT has been successful in limiting the spread of nuclear weapons, significant challenges remain. Some States have not joined the treaty, and others have pursued nuclear weapons capabilities in defiance of their NPT obligations. Additionally, the slow pace of disarmament and the modernization of nuclear arsenals by nuclear-weapon States have raised concerns about the treaty's long-term viability.

The future of the NPT and international efforts to prevent nuclear proliferation will depend on the continued commitment of all States Parties to uphold the treaty's objectives. Diplomatic

[9] U.S. Department of State. (n.d.-a). U.S. Department of State. https://history.state.gov/milestones/1961-1968/npt

efforts, confidence-building measures, and verification mechanisms will be essential in addressing the evolving challenges of nuclear proliferation.

Proposed Solutions

To strengthen verification and compliance mechanisms, Member States could advocate for increased funding and technical support for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to enhance its monitoring and verification capabilities. This may involve developing advanced technologies for detecting undeclared nuclear activities and improving the agency's ability to conduct surprise inspections. Furthermore, encouraging all NPT States Parties to adopt the IAEA's Additional Protocol, which grants the agency expanded rights of access to information and sites, would reinforce the global verification regime and build confidence in the peaceful nature of nuclear activities[10].

Promoting disarmament initiatives is another critical area where Member States should focus. They could prioritize the resumption of multilateral disarmament negotiations, particularly in forums like the Conference on Disarmament[11]. Efforts could be renewed to negotiate a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty[12] and address the issue of nuclear weapons modernization. Additionally, encouraging nuclear-weapon States to establish clear, transparent, and time-bound commitments

[10] IAEA. (2016, June 8). *Additional protocol*. IAEA. https://www.iaea.org/topics/additional-protocol

[11] IAEA. (2014b, July 11). *NPT Review Conferences*. IAEA. https://www.iaea.org/topics/npt-review-conferences

[12] *Fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT) at a glance*. Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT) at a Glance | Arms Control Association. (n.d.). https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/fissile-material-cut-treaty-fmct-glance#:~:text=A%20fissile%20material%20cut%2Doff,uranium%20(HEU)%20and%20plutonium.

for reducing their nuclear arsenals, along with mandating regular progress reports to the UN General Assembly, could help ensure accountability.

In addressing regional proliferation challenges, Member States could support the establishment of new nuclear-weapon-free zones (NWFZs), especially in regions of tension such as the Middle East and Northeast Asia[13]. These zones would legally bind States within the region to refrain from developing, acquiring, or possessing nuclear weapons. Furthermore, fostering regional dialogues to address specific proliferation concerns could involve confidence-building measures, security assurances, and diplomatic initiatives aimed at reducing the demand for nuclear weapons in volatile regions.

To enhance the peaceful use of nuclear energy, promoting international collaboration on nuclear energy projects for peaceful purposes, particularly in areas like medicine, agriculture, and energy, would be essential. Member States could establish new frameworks for sharing nuclear technology and expertise while ensuring strict adherence to non-proliferation norms. Additionally, developing and implementing nuclear security and safety standards to prevent the misuse of nuclear materials would be crucial. Collaboration with international bodies and agencies to enhance security at nuclear facilities and improve the protection of nuclear materials during transport and storage would further this goal.

Strengthening the NPT review process is also a possible vital consideration. Proposing reforms to the NPT Review Conference process to ensure more effective outcomes, such as establishing a

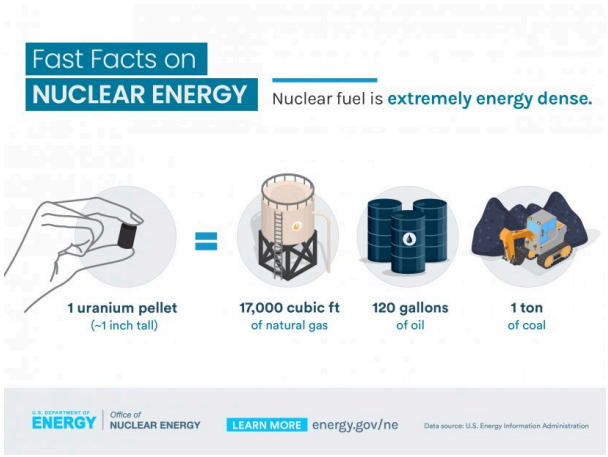
[13] *Nuclear-weapon-free zones*. United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. (n.d.-a). https://disarmament.unoda.org/wmd/nuclear/nwfz/

more regularized review mechanism, improving the implementation of previous commitments, and ensuring that civil society voices are heard in the discussions, would be beneficial. Furthermore, developing clear and consistent procedures for addressing cases of non-compliance with NPT obligations could involve enhanced diplomatic efforts, targeted sanctions, or even referral to the UN Security Council in cases of serious violations.

Finally, supporting non-proliferation education and advocacy can be suggested to sustaining these efforts. Member States could promote global education on the dangers of nuclear proliferation and the importance of the NPT by supporting the inclusion of non-proliferation education in national curricula and funding public awareness campaigns. Encouraging greater involvement of civil society organizations in non-proliferation efforts, through partnerships with NGOs to monitor treaty compliance, advocate for disarmament, and engage in grassroots advocacy for nuclear non-proliferation, would further strengthen these initiatives.

Topic 2: Sustainability in Nuclear Energy

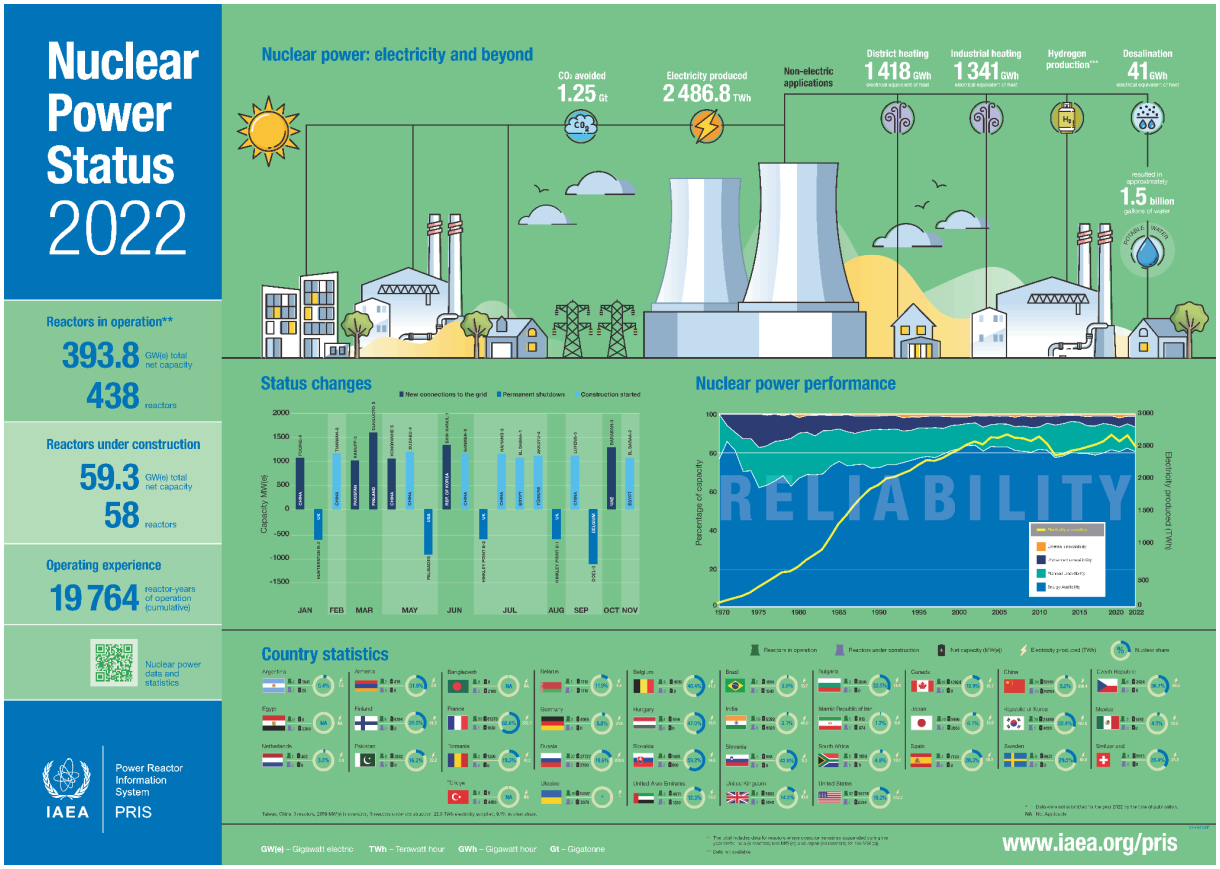
The United Nation's details sustainable development goal (SDG) 7 as affordable and clean energy. On SDG 7's webpage, the UN details, "At the current pace, about 660 million people will still lack access to electricity and close to 2 billion people will still rely on polluting fuels and technologies for cooking by 2030." displaying the dire need for cheap, clean energy.[14] Despite nuclear energy producing a net zero emission into the atmosphere and minimal land use, the stigma behind nuclear energy as a destructive force stymies many states from instilling more plants.[15] Currently, nuclear energy only accounts for 10% of electricity production around the world despite the needs displayed by SDG 7.[16]



[17]A graphic displaying the minimal waste output from the nuclear energy production process.

[14] United Nations. (n.d.). *Energy - United Nations Sustainable Development*. United Nations. https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/energy/
[15] 3 reasons why nuclear is clean and sustainable | Department of Energy. (n.d.). https://www.energy.gov/ne/articles/3-reasons-why-nuclear-clean-and-sustainable
[16] IAEA. (2020, January 8). *Home*. IAEA. https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/multimedia/videos/nuclear-power-the-road-to-a-carbon-free-future
[17] 3 reasons why nuclear is clean and sustainable | Department of Energy. (n.d.). https://www.energy.gov/ne/articles/3-reasons-why-nuclear-clean-and-sustainable

The IAEA keeps a detailed track of all registered nuclear power reactors around the world through the Power Reactor Information System (PRIS) that holds over five decades worth of data. The data is sorted through categories such as reactor type, model, net capacity, and location which gives a general overview of status and energy production throughout the lifespan of the reactor.[18] The data provided from PRIS allows the IAEA to create comparisons amongst other forms of energy production.



[18] *What is Pris*. PRIS. (n.d.). https://pris.iaea.org/PRIS/About.aspx

[19]The graphic above represents an overview of the total active nuclear power plants as of 2022.

Case Study: French Nuclear Energy Production

Following the 1973 Oil Crisis which had bottlenecked European sources of oil, France began their transition from oil fueled energy production into nuclear power.[20] As the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) implemented an oil embargo against countries who had supported Israel in the 1973 Yom Kippur War, the price of oil had soared by upwards of 300%.[21] The French government understood that as a nation with a lack of domestic resources supplying their energy industry, alternatives would have to be developed.

By turning towards American developed nuclear power reactions, France had begun to produce more electricity from nuclear energy than any other source by the mid 1980s - transitioning into the largest electricity generating nation through nuclear energy.[22] The development of nuclear power allowed France to become one of the largest energy exporters in the continent. While the transition towards nuclear energy was not in the hopes of abiding to clean energy, France's investments became a cornerstone towards modern climate goals.

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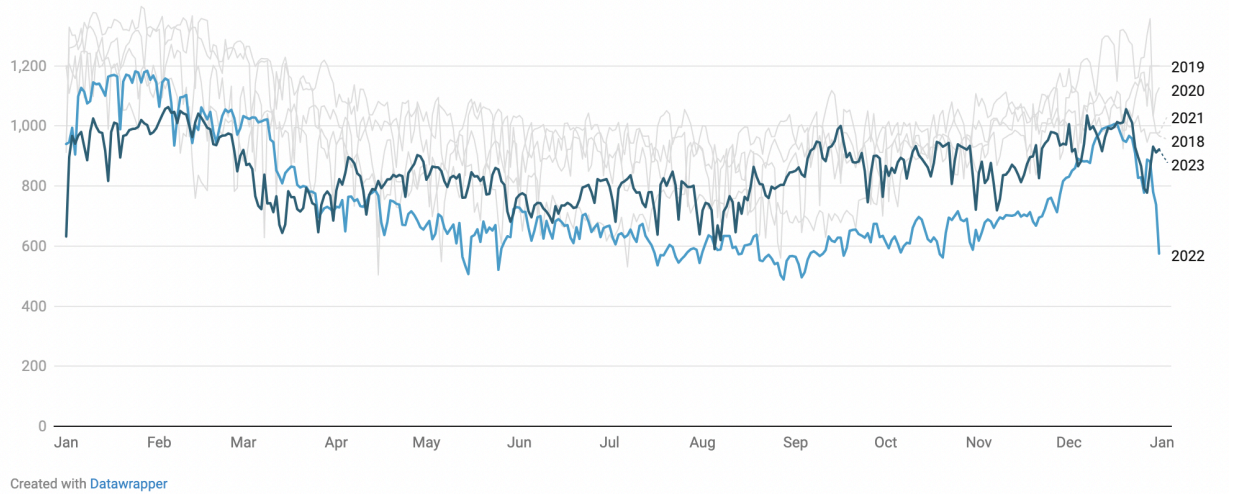
[19] *Home*. PRIS. (n.d.-a). https://pris.iaea.org/PRIS/Home.aspx
[20] Public Broadcasting Service. (n.d.). *Why the French like nuclear energy | nuclear reaction | frontline*. PBS. https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/reaction/readings/french.html
[21] Wikimedia Foundation. (2024, August 10). *1973 oil crisis*. Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org//wiki/1973_oil_crisis
[22] Wikimedia Foundation. (2024b, August 13). *Nuclear power in France*. Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuclear_power_in_France

While nuclear power plants became the foundation to achieving France's energy goals, core issues began to arise regarding the use of nuclear power plants. While energy production is a net zero emission, nuclear power plants produce radioactive waste that requires land dedicated to depositing the waste in a secure method. While finding a space would require a relatively small amount of land to store all of France's radioactive waste, regional residents have protested from their lands being the site. Other modern day issues with nuclear power plants arose such as developing failures in structural integrities that may cause catastrophic damage in the future. In recent years, France's energy has even decreased as production was stalled for site maintenance and worries of failing structural integrity.



[23]French daily nuclear production from 2019 - 2022.

Despite the technology's relative success in making France the number one electricity exporter nation in the world, the long term stresses to sites as well as the lack of a regional radioactive

[23] *Nuclear power in France*. World Nuclear Association. (n.d.). https://world-nuclear.org/information-library/country-profiles/countries-a-f/france

disposal site has contributed to France's nuclear phase out plan until definitive policy solutions are made.

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