



# NGMUN V

## DISEC: Nuclear Proliferation

Katie Cheung & Oona Lundgren • Angie Feng

Secretaries-General

Under-Secretary-General



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*Letter from the Co-Secretaries-General*

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to NGMUN V! As we prepare to open our fifth season of debate, we are grateful to finally welcome delegates back to campus. After three years of virtual committees, it is our honor and pleasure to host what we hope will be a diverse and thoughtful debate. When delegates begin their conference day in person (which may feel new to some), we urge all to remember the spirit of debate and the challenge of immersing oneself in the perspective and interests of one's country or character, rather than relying on personal tendencies. Debate craves healthy controversy. Delegates should present the imperatives of their country or character respectfully and thoughtfully. We look forward to and expect the utmost diplomacy.

The Nobles Model UN club has an extensive and impressive legacy, with recent accolades including Best Large Delegation at Harvard MUN 2021. Club successes in conferences across the nation have solidified Nobles as a leader in independent school Model UN. NGMUN began as an idea between two dedicated members of the club, Will Whalen (N' 19) and Julia Temple (N' 20). The first NGMUN was held in the spring of 2019. Since then, though NGMUN's leadership has separated from the MUN club's leadership, our secretariat and daises have grown significantly in experience, skill, and creativity. This year's staff have a wealth of experience both as delegates and as staff members. Your chairs and co-chairs have spent months preparing committees full of robust debates, critical problem-solving, and international intrigue. They are driven, intelligent, and enthusiastic. You should approach your committee with trust and respect for the forces that be – they are just as excited as you are.

Regarding our expectations for the conference, we look forward to a commitment from delegates to enable successful committees. First of all, position papers will be required for any delegate seeking an award and are highly encouraged for all. Not only will position papers expand your own knowledge of the issue and your delegation's stance, but they also show your chair and co-chair(s) that you take your position at this conference seriously. Secondly, while you should be excited to debate and resolve conflicts, if the discourse between you and other delegates gets too heated, remember that this conference is a simulation. You should exhibit diplomacy, not hostility. Even if you are assigned to a committee where fights and arguments are in the description, there will be no tolerance for directly disrespecting the character of any of your fellow delegates, or any personal attacks. Should issues beyond committee jurisdiction arise, delegates jeopardize their privilege to continue in the debate. We look forward to a day of intellectual growth, diplomacy, and thoughtful discourse. On behalf of your very excited secretariat, thank you for joining us for a weekend!

Sincerely,

Katie Cheung & Oona Lundgren

*Secretaries-General*

[kcheung23@nobles.edu](mailto:kcheung23@nobles.edu)

[olundgren-lah23@nobles.edu](mailto:olundgren-lah23@nobles.edu)

*Sensitivity Statement*

You are assuming the roles and responsibilities of diplomats, and therefore will be held to the ethical standards of the role. During NGMUN, we expect all delegate behavior to reflect the gravity and sensitivity of the international and individual impact of the topics being addressed, just as such topics would be addressed by professional diplomats. While the issues you debate are on the world stage and may seem distant from your lived experience, we ask that you approach debate with a high level of respect and sensitivity for others. Absolutely no racism, sexism, xenophobia, homophobia, or any other forms of discrimination will be tolerated in or out of committee. This includes any such harmful rhetoric that can be attributed to the country or character you are representing. Any discriminatory language or ideas in speeches, resolutions, or at any other point in the conference is prohibited.

*Letter From the Chair*

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the Disarmament and International Security Committee at NGMUN 2023! My name is Morgan Gibson, and I am so excited to be your chair along with my co-chair Alan Cai. I am a sophomore at the Noble and Greenough School, where I enjoy playing soccer, and the violin, being a representative on student government, and a member of the Mock Trial and Debate Teams. In my free time outside of school, I am an avid reader and baker.

In my freshman year, I was first introduced to Model UN and immediately fell in love with the activity. I have participated in several conferences in the past year, including NGMUN last year. My absolute favorite type of committee is Crisis or Specialized but have participated in other varieties of committees as well. From the start, I enjoyed the fast-paced and ever-changing environment of crisis committees and, so my goal for this General Assembly committee is to make it a fun space where I can help delegates to engage in a productive and enlightening discussion.

This committee will be on nuclear proliferation and is set in the present day. Nuclear proliferation relates to the spread of nuclear weapons among countries, and this background guide will assist you in gaining a better understanding of the topic. Although there is a lot of good information in this background guide, I want to emphasize the importance of conducting your own research. Coming into the conference with a strong understanding of your country's stance on the topic will make you stand out in committee and also allow you to focus more on the social aspects of the conference rather than learning about the topic on the fly.

To provide some more tips, I would stress taking risks and speaking up even if you don't know precisely what you want to say. MUN is a fantastic way to strengthen your public speaking skills and your ability to think on your feet, and you will improve through practice. I also would say to take advantage of this opportunity. Along with public speaking, you'll learn many essential skills through MUN, but we must recognize that the ability to participate in conferences is a privilege. Many don't have the same chance to compete, so give it your all in the competition and don't take the experience for granted.

To conclude, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions that you may have and I will do my best to respond in a timely manner. I can not wait to see you all at NGMUN!

Sincerely,

Morgan Gibson and Alan Cai

[mgibson25@nobles.edu](mailto:mgibson25@nobles.edu)

[acai24@nobles.edu](mailto:acai24@nobles.edu)

## INTRODUCTION TO THE TOPIC:

Nuclear weapons are the most dangerous and destructive weapons on the planet. Whether fired from a missile silo in North Dakota or launched from the wing of B-52, nuclear weapons use nuclear energy to cause massive explosions, with a single weapon having the ability to destroy an entire city with very few survivors. Nuclear weapons create ionizing radiation that kills and sickens those exposed to it. Additionally, the radiation infects the surrounding environment and has long-term health consequences such as genetic damage and cancer.<sup>1</sup> Nuclear weapons threaten up to two billion people with starvation and nuclear famine as less than one percent of nuclear weapons in the world could potentially disrupt the global climate.<sup>2</sup>

Nuclear Proliferation is the spread of nuclear weapons, nuclear weapons technology, or fissile material to countries that do not already possess them. Fissile materials are materials that can undergo a fission reaction and are a key aspect of nuclear weapons. Numerous countries use Nuclear Proliferation to gain power and status, such as the US, which has an estimated 100 nuclear weapons stored across the five NATO member states, including Germany, Turkey, and Belgium. Although the U.S. and other international leaders attempt to prevent the expansion of nuclear weapons through legislation, sanctions, and military force, many countries continue to develop them. Although this spread of weapons can be used to build relationships, there are dangers that go along with these benefits. “The more countries that have them, the thinking goes, the greater the chance they could be used in war—or even in a terrorist attack.”<sup>3</sup>

## HISTORY:

In World War II, the prospect of Nazi Germany becoming equipped with nuclear weapons pushed the United States to create nuclear weapons through an initiative called the Manhattan Project. In July of 1945, this project would create the atomic bomb. The Uranium based atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan, with a plutonium-based bomb being dropped on Nagasaki a mere three days later.<sup>4</sup> Both of these bombs were dropped only three weeks following the first test of the atomic bomb in New Mexico.

The United States remained the sole nuclear power until 1949, when the Soviet Union tested its first atomic bomb, First Lighting. A British physicist that contributed to the Manhattan Project provided the Soviet Union with the secret information needed to create their atomic bomb. During the Cold War, in November 1952, the US created the first thermonuclear bomb, which is 1,000 times more powerful than the atomic bomb.

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<sup>1</sup> “Catastrophic Harm.” ICAN. Accessed January 2, 2023. [https://www.icanw.org/catastrophic\\_harm](https://www.icanw.org/catastrophic_harm).

<sup>2</sup> “Catastrophic Harm.” ICAN. Accessed January 2, 2023. [https://www.icanw.org/catastrophic\\_harm](https://www.icanw.org/catastrophic_harm).

<sup>3</sup> “What Is Nuclear Proliferation?” Council on Foreign Relations. Council on Foreign Relations. Accessed January 21, 2023. <https://world101.cfr.org/global-era-issues/nuclear-proliferation/what-nuclear-proliferation>.

<sup>4</sup> “Nuclear Proliferation.” Encyclopædia Britannica. Encyclopædia Britannica, inc. Accessed January 2, 2023. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/nuclear-proliferation>.

In 1962 the Cuban Missile Crisis occurred, a major event in the history of nuclear weapons. The Soviet Union installed nuclear-armed missiles in Cuba 90 miles from the United States coast in retaliation to the American failed attempt at opposing the communist government in Cuba through a mission known as the Bay of Pigs. Due to this, a 13-day military and political standoff ensued. President John F. Kennedy created a naval blockade around Cuba in response; however, a naval blockade is technically considered an act of war and only increased tensions. After a secret negotiation between Robert Kennedy and Anatoly Dobrynin, the proposal was made that the US remove its missiles from Italy and Turkey and promised never to invade Cuba in exchange for the Soviet Union withdrawing from Cuba. Ultimately on October 29, 1962, Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev ordered the withdrawal of missiles from Cuba, which ended the Cuban Missile Crisis.<sup>5</sup>

In 1968, the United States and the Soviet Union negotiated an international agreement to stop the spread of nuclear weapons called the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). The treaty went into effect in 1970 and divided the world's countries into nuclear weapon states,

Over the years, the world superpowers amassed tens of thousands of nuclear warheads, with countries including Great Britain, France, and China now having access to these weapons. The treaty says that nuclear weapon states cannot use nuclear weapons to assist non-nuclear weapon states in obtaining nuclear weapons. This would reduce stockpiles of nuclear weapon states as they agreed not to acquire or develop additional nuclear weapons. Even so, some countries did not decide to sign the NPT, and they could make their nuclear weapons. North Korea signed the treaty initially but later withdrew from it and now openly tests nuclear weapons. In 1974, India became the first country outside of the NPT to test a nuclear weapon. Other non-signatories include Pakistan, which has a known nuclear weapon program, Israel, which may or may not have nuclear weapons; and South Sudan, which is not known or thought to have nuclear weapons.

## **CURRENT SITUATION:**

Only 30 years after the collapse of the Soviet Union, the world is facing rising tensions along many of its former faultlines, namely the East vs. West.<sup>6</sup> New authoritarian powers rising from the ashes of the Cold War are beginning to flex their muscles and have begun reestablishing themselves on the world stage.<sup>7</sup> This has led to rising tensions, and more conflict and aggression between the established democratic powers of the West, and new authoritarian powers like China.<sup>8</sup> As of early 2022, the nine countries that currently possess nuclear weapons field about

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<sup>5</sup> U.S. Department of State. U.S. Department of State. Accessed January 2, 2023. <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1961-1968/cuban-missile-crisis>.

<sup>6</sup> Elliott Abrams, "The New Cold War," Council on Foreign Relations, last modified March 4, 2022, accessed January 3, 2023, <https://www.cfr.org/blog/new-cold-war-0>.

<sup>7</sup> Abrams, "The New Cold," Council on Foreign Relations.

<sup>8</sup> Abrams, "The New Cold," Council on Foreign Relations.

12,700 warheads in total. However, many states are not completely transparent about their true number of nuclear weapons, which makes estimating the number of nuclear warheads difficult.<sup>9</sup> However, in recent history, the number of nuclear weapons has steadily declined after the end of the Cold War.<sup>10</sup> Recently, however, with a clear uptick in aggressive rhetoric, and conflicts heating up, especially in Europe, experts predict that nuclear reduction will begin to reverse due to countries investing more money into their self-defense capabilities in a globe facing a greater number of threats to peace and stability.<sup>11</sup> Even before the recent War in Ukraine, many nations worked on modernizing their nuclear arsenals while decommissioning outdated nuclear weapons.<sup>12</sup> However, the War in Ukraine and other global conflicts stemming from the rise of powerful authoritarian regimes may lead to more and more nuclear weapons being fielded by nations to guarantee their security.<sup>13</sup> Furthermore, threats of nuclear warfare by nuclear states such as Russia have led to increased tensions around the world. In this day and age, with an increasingly fractured international community, nuclear weapons have become a much more vital insurance policy for nations to ensure their peace and security from their adversaries and to project their own interests and power.

## **RELEVANT UN ACTION:**

Since its founding in the aftermath of World War II, the conflict in which nuclear weapons were first developed and deployed, the United Nations has taken several steps to limit and regulate the spread of weapons of mass destruction. In 1946, in the first resolution ever adopted by the UN General Assembly, the UN authorized the creation of a new commission to investigate and act on issues relating to the discovery of atomic energy. The commission was also responsible for figuring out ways to control the usage of atomic energy to guarantee its usage for solely peaceful purposes. Since then, multiple treaties on nuclear proliferation have been proposed and signed by many UN member states, including the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in The Atmosphere, In Outer Space And Under Water (Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty), and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.<sup>14</sup> Most recently, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was ratified by at least 50 nations in 2017 and went into effect in 2021. This treaty completely banned nuclear weapons for states that ratified it. However, the treaty was

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<sup>9</sup> Status of World Nuclear Forces," Federation of American Scientists, accessed January 3, 2023, <https://fas.org/issues/nuclear-weapons/status-world-nuclear-forces/>.

<sup>10</sup> "Status of World," Federation of American Scientists.

<sup>11</sup> "Global nuclear arsenals are expected to grow as states continue to modernize—New SIPRI Yearbook out now," Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, last modified June 13, 2022, accessed January 3, 2023, <https://www.sipri.org/media/press-release/2022/global-nuclear-arsenals-are-expected-grow-states-continue-modernize-new-sipri-yearbook-out-now>.

<sup>12</sup> "Global nuclear," Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

<sup>13</sup> "Global nuclear," Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

<sup>14</sup> "Disarmament," United Nations, accessed January 3, 2023, <https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/disarmament>.



largely symbolic since major nuclear powers, including the United States, refused to sign it and give up their nuclear weapons.<sup>15</sup> The UN has stated that it “has given highest priority to reducing and eventually eliminating nuclear weapons”, which it says is one of the “direst threats to humankind.”<sup>16</sup> While the United Nations does not necessarily have binding authority over the issue of nuclear proliferation, as a supranational body, it is able to apply immense pressure and assistance to support the cause of nuclear disarmament throughout the world; a goal that it has strived for since its founding days.

## **POTENTIAL BLOCS:**

The Western World (NATO & Allied Democracies): Western democracies may fear the consequences of a rogue, resurgent, and authoritarian state such as Iran and North Korea being able to acquire nuclear weapons. Western nations, bonded by shared ties, as well as military, economic, and political connections, hope to see a world where they can protect their people and their values from newly rising authoritarian states, either through mutually assured destruction or, even better, nuclear disarmament of their competitors. With war looming over Europe and recent nuclear tests in North Korea, the free world holds its breath as nuclear technology and weapons are successfully deployed by rogue nation-states and aggressive authoritarian competitors. This conference may present an opportunity for this bloc to implement its policies and goals, with an opportunity to prevent or restrict the acquisition of nuclear weapons by their authoritarian adversaries.

Rising Authoritarian States (Iran, North Korea, China, Russia, etc.): Emerging from the ashes of the Cold War, new powers have arisen to challenge the supremacy of the global world order based in the halls of Washington DC, Tokyo, Brussels, and Berlin. Developing countries that are becoming increasingly relevant economically, politically, and globally have begun challenging the established world order of the Western world. These emerging powers, hoping to challenge the Western world, have grown suspicious of the vast nuclear arsenals of the West and view them as hypocrites who oppose nuclear weapons for any countries that are not aligned with them, but who still field these weapons in the name of safety and protection. These nations may see shared benefits in advocating for more freedom on the issue of nuclear proliferation, a goal that may lead them on a collision course with the western world.

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<sup>15</sup> Bill Chappell, "U.N. Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapons Takes Effect, Without The U.S. And Other Powers," NPR, last modified January 22, 2021, accessed January 3, 2023, <https://www.npr.org/2021/01/22/959583731/u-n-treaty-banning-nuclear-weapons-takes-effect-without-the-u-s-and-others>.

<sup>16</sup> "Disarmament," United Nations, accessed January 3, 2023, <https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/disarmament>.

**QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:**

1. Who should get nuclear weapons, and who shouldn't?
2. What are the ramifications for expanding versus restricting countries' access to nuclear weapons that don't have them already?
3. How will expanding or restricting access impact (positively or negatively) your countries and your allies?
4. How can the committee go about expanding or restricting access?
5. How can previous UN resolutions and policies serve as a starting point for implementing further rules on nuclear weapons?

**POSITION PAPER POLICY:**

At NGMUN, the expectation is that you write and submit a position paper before the conference. The purpose of the position paper is to not only get you thinking about how to research the topic for your specific country but provide the chairs with background information on your country going into committee. Your position papers should be approximately 1-2 pages in Times New Roman, size 12 font, double-spaced. At the latest, papers must be submitted a week before the conference, but we encourage you to submit them before then. A submitted position paper is highly highly recommended to be considered for an award. For example, if we decide between two delegates for an award, we will default to looking at the position papers. That said, please do not stress about the position papers at all. Your performance in committee and prep for the conference is much more important than the paper itself. In your position paper, you should talk about three main things. First, you should discuss your country's stance on the topic. Second, you should go into what your country has done in the past relating to nuclear proliferation. Finally, you should talk about the possible solutions to the problem that you can bring to the committee.

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