

Disarmament and International Security Committee

Topic B: The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East.

About the General Assembly and Disarmament and International Security Committee:

The General Assembly was established in 1945 under the Charter of the United Nations. It is considered to be the most important organ of the United Nations because it is made up of all 192 Member States and it provides an opportunity for full debate and discussion of a full variety of international issues. Each Member State in the General Assembly has one equal vote. Most questions considered by the General Assembly are decided by simple majority, except that election of Security Council members requires a two-thirds majority of the Member States. Recently, resolutions have also been adopted by reaching an agreement (consensus) without a formal vote.

The work of the General Assembly is divided into six main committees. Draft resolutions are presented to the plenary meeting of the Assembly for voting or consensus. The six main committees are as follows:

1. First Committee (Disarmament and International Security Committee)
2. Second Committee (Economic and Financial Committee)
3. Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee)
4. Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization Committee)
5. Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary Committee)
6. Sixth Committee (Legal Committee)

Background Guide

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According to the Charter of the United Nations, the General Assembly has the responsibility and power to do the following:

- Make recommendations about how countries should cooperate in order to maintain international peace and security, including disarmament;
- Discuss any question relating to international peace and security and

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make recommendations on it unless the situation is currently being considered by the Security Council,

- Discuss and make recommendations on any questions which affect the powers and functions of any part of the United Nations;
- Initiate studies and make recommendations which will encourage and further international political cooperation, the development of international law, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and international collaboration in the areas of economic, social, humanitarian, cultural, educational and health needs;
- Make suggestions for ways to peacefully resolve any situation that might hurt the friendly relationship between nations;
- Receive and consider reports from the Security Council and other United Nations committees;
- Consider and approve the United Nations budget and establish

the financial assessments of Member States;

- Elect the non-permanent members of the Security Council, the members of other United Nations councils and organs, and appoint a new Secretary-General when recommended to do so by the Security Council

When the Assembly adopts a resolution, it serves as a recommendation to the Member States on how to resolve an issue. Resolutions are non-binding; they are merely suggestions, however, the actions of the General Assembly over the years have had a positive effect on the lives of many people throughout the world

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The First committee's of the General Assembly (Disarmament and International Security Committee) function is to deal with the disarmament and related international security questions. These will be reached by gathering international recommendations for the General Assembly Main

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Committee, which will approve and take into consideration the resolutions made by this committee. The functions and powers of this committee are to:

- Consider and make recommendations on the general principles of cooperation for maintaining international peace and security, including disarmament;
- Discuss any question relating to international peace and security and, except where a dispute or situation is currently being discussed by the Security Council, make recommendations on it;
- Recalling the decision on principles and objectives for nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on 11 May 1995,² in which the Conference urged universal adherence to the Treaty as an urgent priority and

called upon all States not yet parties to the Treaty to accede to it at the earliest date, particularly those States that operate unsafeguarded nuclear facilities,

- Recognizing with satisfaction that, in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Conference undertook to make determined efforts towards the achievement of the goal of universality of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, called upon those remaining States not parties to the Treaty to accede to it, thereby accepting an international legally binding commitment not to acquire nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices and to accept International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards on all their nuclear activities, and underlined the necessity of universal adherence to the Treaty and of strict compliance

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by all parties with their obligations under the Treaty

At the local level, UN peacekeepers often work to implement specific disarmament agreements between warring parties.

The situation following Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait and the conclusion of the first Gulf War is a unique example of a UN ceasefire agreement requiring enforced disarmament. When the war ended, the Council adopted its resolution 687 of 8 April 1991, setting the terms of the ceasefire. Among them: the elimination of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction (WMDs).

It is also believed that Israel has nuclear weapons although they have never admitted to it. Israel has avoided summits or any discussions about nuclear arms. It is currently under pressure from Allies, including the U.S., to agree to a nuclear free zone in the Middle East. However, the nation has stated that it will only sign the NPT treaty once a full Arab-Israeli peace agreement has been reached.

To that end, the Council established the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) on the disarmament of Iraq, with powers of no-notice inspection. It entrusted the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) with similar verification tasks in the nuclear sphere, with UNSCOM assistance. Over the ensuing 12 years, this process succeeded in reducing Iraq's WMD arsenal considerably.

UN Peacekeeping also employs the strategy of preventive disarmament, which seeks to reduce the number of small arms in conflict-prone regions.

This committee's mission is to make international agreements for the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. It must achieve this by the respect of the sovereignty of each nation include in the Middle East territory.

This is being focused in the Middle East because of the recent economic development that it has had. Because of this economic development of some areas of the Middle East it has started since 1990's an armament program. This

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committee must find different solutions for this such as the Nuclear-Ban treaty.

Under the NPT, all countries have a right to nuclear development for peaceful purposes. The fear has been that countries could use this privilege as a cover for developing nuclear weapons. According to General Colin Powell in his introduction to the 2010 film *Nuclear Tipping Point*, "The real threat is not from States that understand that you cannot use these weapons without inviting a suicidal response, but it is from terrorists who don't care about the suicidal response and are willing to commit suicide..." If nuclear weapons are used at all, there will be devastating consequences in the form of immediate physical harm to human beings, destruction of land, fall out radiation and economic catastrophe affecting the entire world.

Research Questions

1. What is your country's position on whether there is currently a risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle

East? Do neighboring countries hold the same position on this issue?

2. Is your country currently using nuclear technology and, if so, for what purpose?

3. What stake does your country have in this issue? How would nuclear proliferation in the Middle East affect your country, your continent or other areas of the world?

4. Why is peace in the Middle East desirable? Why does peace in the Middle East matter to nations in other areas of the world?

5. What strategies or solutions for solving the crisis in the Middle East have previously been attempted? What successes in negotiations have occurred? What failures in negotiations have occurred?

6. What are some facts, figures and statistics regarding this issue on a national, regional, and international level?

7. Do all nations have a right to develop nuclear enhancements and how should new developments be monitored, if at all?

8. How can your country be involved in assuring nuclear safety in the Middle East?

<http://www.irna.ir/News/Politic/Lebanese-politicians-congratulate-Iran%E2%80%99s-nuclear-achievements/30826029>

<http://www.un.org/en/globalissues/disarmament/index.shtml>

<http://www.un.org/en/ga/maincommittees/index.shtml>

<http://www.un.org/en/ga/first/index.shtml>

<http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/background.shtml>