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**Topic A: Addressing the Threat of Nuclear Terrorism**

Mexico has a strong history of supporting nuclear nonproliferation, from spearheading the Treaty of Tlatelolco, to having ratified the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1969 ,and numerous treaties since then (World Nuclear Association). This issue is so valuable to Mexico that it is unconstitutional to use nuclear energy for non-peaceful purposes (World Nuclear Association). Mexico recognizes the serious danger that nuclear weapons possess, and in an attempt to mitigate this danger, seeks the establishment of a new Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (Mision Permanente). Mexico realizes that this is dependent on the will of participating nations, and therefore respects their sovereignty, and recognizes this as a limitation (Mision Permanente). Despite this, NFWZs are a step in the right direction for the less countries that possess nuclear weapons, the less of a risk there is for an attack or accident. Additionally, Mexico advocates for the ratification of fissile material treaty because it is another important method in a path to disarmament (Misions Permanente). If the IAEA can monitor this treaty if it were to be ratified, it would be an effective method in which to prevent the expansion of nuclear weapons in many states.

Mexico is a member of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, and was home to its international conference in 2013 (GICNT). As a partner to this agreement, Mexico recognizes that the threat that nuclear weapons pose is changing, and must be addressed. This is why steps need to be taken to enhance security surrounding civilian nuclear facilities, as well as eliminating the ability for terrorists to acquire the financial means to get nuclear material (GICNT). If a terrorist group were to obtain nuclear weapons, or the materials and funding to produce them, the results would be catastrophic. That is why the limitation of the amount of fissile material and nuclear weapons is extremely important; the more material and weaponry that is out there, the higher the risk for error. As a globe, we are already seeing the changing nature of warfare as conflict increasingly involves non state actors. It are these groups that could seriously threaten global security with nuclear materials. This is why security in and around civilian nuclear facilities must be heightened because one mistake could have catastrophic ends. If the future of conflict lies in non state actors, it should be in these groups, as well as hostile states, that we should be most wary of in tracking the flow of nuclear materials. They have the greatest interest in obtaining these materials, which cannot be overlooked.

Mexico strictly monitors the transportation and security of all nuclear material in its borders by ensuring the legitimacy and safety of storage and transportation methods (OECD). Mexico encourages other countries to do the same for accountability is key when it comes to tracking something so sensitive as nuclear material. This is especially important in countries like Pakistan, where terrorist groups are a more legitimate threat. Despite strongly condemning states that test nuclear weapons, Mexico does support India’s bid to join the Nuclear Suppliers Group because it represents a step towards disarmament (Daniel). This is a way to get more countries involved in global nuclear agreements, and to hopefully eventually achieve full disarmament. Mexico also supports the expansion of the IAEA in order to oversee the hopeful expansion of nuclear treaties as a way to further encourage more states to join them. Mexico will continue to support the sovereignty of countries as well, but at the same time hopes to see the IAEA take steps to implore UN members to become more transparency in releasing information about the number of nuclear weapons or materials that can be used to produce nuclear weapons. Mexico does not see a benefit to the possession of these arms, and will continue to fully support states’ efforts to decrease their nuclear stockpiles.

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**Topic B: Nuclear Energy as an Alternate Source of Energy**

Mexico is currently under a new phase of energy management as it is investing increasing sums into its energy sector as it moves away from petroleum (IAEA). Mexico wants to make their energy market more competitive, and therefore affordable, and believes that this is achievable via a diverse mix of energy sources (IAEA). Mexico currently operates one nuclear power plant, Laguna Verde, which has two reactors and supplies 5.6% of the country’s electricity (IAEA). The plant opened in 1990, and plans for an uprate have been approved in order to cut costs and increase efficiency (IAEA). Currently, Mexico imports its uranium because of low prices, despite approximately 1,300 tons of uranium reserves having been identified (which are not cost efficient to tap into). This means that Mexico’s uranium supply will not be in jeopardy in the near future because if the price of uranium were to skyrocket, or if for some reason Mexico’s access to the global market were to be restricted, it could tap into domestic reserves. This is an important step into guaranteeing Mexico’s energy security, which is also reinforced by a current energy trade surplus. Mexico is not currently looking to open additional nuclear energy facilities because of the initial cost that is needed to do so, especially in context with the low cost of expanding natural gas production (IAEA). This means that Mexico is not inherently opposed to the expansion of nuclear energy, especially given that is a more environmentally conscious alternative to petroleum, but it is not in the best economic interest of Mexico to expand its nuclear production at this time. Mexico’s nuclear production can be satiated by the expanding natural gas industry, even as petroleum is playing an increasingly smaller role in Mexico’s domestic economy (IAEA).

Mexico is currently looking to tighten its safety regulations on nuclear energy production (IAEA). Although this has not been a problem at Laguna Verde, Mexico hold preventative measures as extremely important for the potential effects of an accident could be devastating. Fukushima Daiichi is an example of how powerful and destructive a nuclear accident can be, and Mexico wants to take as many steps as possible to ensure that nothing akin to that occurs within its borders. Mexico requires handlers of radioactive materials to undergo licensing procedures, and all transportation and storage of radioactive materials must be done with the approval of the federal government (OECD). Mexico encourages other countries to do the same in order to prevent any mishaps with radioactive material for nobody wants it to fall into the wrong hands or for it to be environmentally harmful. Mexico also has regulations governing how nuclear activity can impact the environment to ensure that no damage is done to public health or to ecological systems (OECD). Mexico believes that it is irresponsible for a country to operate otherwise because the long term costs of running a nuclear operation that damages public health or the environment are not worth it. Mexico supports all efforts of the IAEA to institute guidelines of these domains on an international level. In terms of handling nuclear waste, low and intermediate level waste is stored at the Laguna Verde facility, while Mexico has not yet made a decision regarding its handling of high level waste (which are currently being researched (IAEA). By storing waste at the government facility, the risk of it being mismanaged is mitigated. Mexico is also committed to not dumping waste into waterways, recognizing its environmental impacts (OECD). Mexico supports the international trade of energy, which is important to the Mexican economy (IAEA). Mexico is a large petroleum exporter, and believes that as long as it is done safely and securely, energy trade is beneficial to the global economy.

In terms of handling nuclear energy and nonproliferation on a global scale, Mexico believes that it is possible to have a world that uses nuclear power for energy needs while not building nuclear weapons. Mexico acknowledges that this balance can be difficult, especially when there are a number of non-state groups that desire nuclear material for malevolent purposes. This means that global cooperation is key, and Mexico will continue to support the IAEA as a means to oversee and facilitate this.

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**Topic C: Measures to Implement and Enforce the Nuclear Program in Iran**

During its tenure as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, Mexico voted in favor of sanctions on Iran due to its nuclear program (Tawil). Mexico respects the right of Iran to operate a nuclear program, unless it is done so to build nuclear weapons (Tawil). Mexico also stresses the transparency that Iran needs to maintain to remain in good standing regarding its nuclear deal, for a lack thereof would arise what Mexico would consider reasonable suspicion (Tawil). Mexico supports the process of dialogue and eventual negotiation when it came to making a deal with Iran because it believes that an agreement from both sides is the most constructive way to move forward (Tawil). If a foreign country or group were to come into Iran and impose restrictive means on Iran’s nuclear program, it would both infringe on Iran’s sovereignty and discourage Iran from taking any meaningful steps to work with the global community regarding the future of their program.

After the first decade, Mexico supports granting Iran further independence over their nuclear program, as long as they have not violated any terms of it for had any other significant infractions. Mexico supports the sovereignty of countries, but nuclear weapons is far too important of a matter to allow an untrustworthy state to act independently on. Any indication that Iran’s nuclear program has militaristic intentions will warrant an immediate review by the IAEA, and if found to be true, should result in an attempt to prohibit any further progress by Iran, including the flow of radioactive materials into the country. This includes attempts by Iranian officials to bar IAEA inspectors from accessing sites or obtaining pertinent information. Mexico wants to see Iran succeed under this agreement because it would mean another step towards nuclear disarmament, and a success for nuclear nonproliferation. This would also be a step Iran can take in order to increase global participation.

Iran has means to improve its reputation via compliance with the nuclear program, but this will not cover many other problems that states have with Iran. Iran’s involvement with Hezbollah and the war in Syria put stress on relations between Iran and many Western countries, but Mexico does understand that Iran has a vested interest in the outcome of the war in Syria. This cannot be an excuse for supporting a group that acts so hostile towards Israel, so any sign that Iran is severing its ties with Hezbollah will be well received. Additionally, the treatment of women in Iran marks another significant point of disgruntlement from many Western countries. Unlike other issues that rely on policy, this is a moral division. Iran saw a time where women had a larger and more equal role in society, so an indication that Iran is shifting back to this would be well received, although Mexico recognizes that this is unlikely.

Mexico fully supports Israel, and wants to insure them that this deal will not encourage Iran to be more militaristic in other ways. Ensuring that Iran cannot develop nuclear weapons should be welcoming to other Arab states that feel threatened by Iran because a nuclear attack would be the most destructive attack Iran could carry out. Mexico realizes that Iranian-Israeli relations will probably not be mended for a long time, so Mexico currently seeks to keep a peace between the two countries. The hope is that this deal will encourage Iran to work with world organizations more in the future, which would actually make Iran less hostile. Iran must realize that they cannot be so antagonistic to their neighbors if they wish for other states to work with them, like they have in the nuclear deal. Mexico understands Iran’s need to maintain a standing army and modern weaponry as the Islamic State has not been far from its borders. Although the Islamic State has been significantly weakened since this high point of expansion, Mexico still recognizes the right for Iran to maintain its army and receive arms as approved under the stipulated amendment of the UN arms embargo. Mexico does not want to see these arms being transferred to groups that are currently participating in conflicts, nor does it want Iran to use their armament as a leverage point. If either of these acts of aggression are taking place, the increased freedom that Iran received due to the amendments on their arms embargo should be rolled back. If Iran remains in good standing, and sanctions are rolled back, this will be representative of de-escalating tension between Iran and the West. This will also be a sign of a more peaceful Middle East, as Iran will no longer pose as great of a threat.

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