

# MUNAA

Background Paper

## General Assembly

Global nuclear  
disarmament.



# MUNAA

# Dear delegates, judges, and secretaries,

During the last months, the whole MUNAA team has been putting a huge effort into the preparation of this event for ensuring this model of United Nations experience will be of great value to you.

We believe this event is a magnificent opportunity to make great friends, develop abilities that will be very useful in the future, and to do what you can to help others. In this simulation, you will be continuously working with your leadership, always searching to guide your committee into following the best solutions. Also, you will practice your verbal skills, as you will be constantly engaging in vivid debates and sharing your ideas in front of an audience. In addition, you will power up your negotiation abilities through convincing other contestants to follow you and support you during discussions. And if that was not enough, everything you do in these three days will expand your point of view and help you gather knowledge about issues around the world.

This is the perfect opportunity to express yourself and become a better person than you were yesterday. I look forward to see all of you in this magnificent event

**SINCERELY,  
MARIANA REYES  
SECRETARY GENERAL**

## SECRETARIAT

**Mariana Reyes**  
Secretary General

**Mauricio Guerrero**  
Chief of crisis

**Ana Lucía Aguilar**  
Chief of internal affairs

**María Fernández**  
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**Rodrigo Colunga**  
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**Diana Campero**  
Chief of external affairs

**Yara Chavez**  
Chief of technology

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### I.Quorum

1.- Argentina

2.- Colombia

3.- Russia

4.- Chile

5.- China

6.- Cuba

7.- Denmark

8.- Finland

9.- Greece

10.- Guatemala

11.- Italy

12.- Laos

13.- Lithuania

14.- Norway



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15.- Mexico

16.- Thailand

17.- Turkey

18.- United Kingdom

19.- United States

20.- Vietnam

### **II. Committee background**

Established in 1945 under the Charter of the United Nations, the General Assembly occupies a central position as the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations. Comprising all 193 Members of the United Nations, it provides a unique forum for multilateral discussion of the full spectrum of international issues covered by the Charter. It also plays a significant role in the process of standard-setting and the codification of international law.

The Assembly meets from September to December each year, and thereafter, from January to August, as required, including to take up outstanding reports from the Fourth and Fifth Committees. Also during the resumed part of the session, the Assembly considers current issues of critical importance to the international community in the form of high-level



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thematic debates organized by the President of the General Assembly in consultation with the membership.

During that period, the Assembly traditionally also conducts informal consultations on a wide range of substantive topics, including on UN reform related matters.

### III. History of the topic

United states tested its first nuclear bomb. Not three weeks later, the world changed.

On August 6, 1945, the United States dropped an atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. It killed or wounded nearly 130,000 people. Three days later, the United States bombed Nagasaki. Of the 286,00 people living there at the time of the blast, 74,000 were killed and another 75,000 sustained severe injuries. Japan agreed to an unconditional surrender on August 14, 1945; it also resulted in the end of World War II.

In subsequent years, the United States, the Soviet Union and Great Britain conducted several nuclear weapons tests. In 1954, President Jawaharlal Nehru of India called for a ban on nuclear testing. It was the first large-scale initiative to ban using nuclear technology for mass destruction.

In 1958, nearly 10,000 scientists presented to United Nations Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld a petition that begged, “We deem it imperative that immediate action be taken to effect an international agreement to stop testing of all nuclear weapons.”

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The United Nations, on December 12, 1995, decreed an immediate ban on all nuclear testing and urged disarmament with the vision of a world free of nuclear weapons.

On September 10, 1996, the United Nations, in a landslide vote, adopted the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and two weeks later, the United States was the first to sign. (The U.S. Senate, however, rejected the treaty three years later.)

On October 9, 2006, North Korea tested a nuclear weapon with the approximated power of the Hiroshima bomb. North Korea announced to the world that it has become the world's eighth declared nuclear weapons state. Its missiles have the range to hit targets in South Korea, Japan as well as U.S., Chinese, and Russian territories.

The United States is the only known country to have missiles with range to attack any target on earth, but over thirty countries have unmanned planes that are undetected by missile defense systems, and can carry nuclear, biological or other weapons of mass destruction.

### **IV. Topic information**

Nuclear weapons are the most dangerous weapons on earth. One can destroy a whole city, potentially killing millions, and jeopardizing the natural environment and lives of future generations through its long-term catastrophic effects. The dangers from such weapons arise from their very existence. Although nuclear weapons have only been used twice in

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warfare—in the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945—about 22,000 reportedly remain in our world today and there have been over 2,000 nuclear tests conducted to date. Disarmament is the best protection against such dangers, but achieving this goal has been a tremendously difficult challenge.

The United Nations has sought to eliminate such weapons ever since its establishment. The first resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1946 established a Commission to deal with problems related to the discovery of atomic energy among others. The Commission was to make proposals for, inter alia, the control of atomic energy to the extent necessary to ensure its use only for peaceful purposes. The resolution also decided that the Commission should make proposals for “the elimination from national armaments of atomic weapons and of all other major weapons adaptable to mass destruction.”

A number of multilateral treaties have since been established with the aim of preventing nuclear proliferation and testing, while promoting progress in nuclear disarmament. These include the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests In The Atmosphere, In Outer Space And Under Water, also known as the Partial Test Ban Treaty (PTBT), and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), which was signed in 1996 but has yet to enter into force.

A number of bilateral and plurilateral treaties and arrangements seek to reduce or eliminate certain categories of nuclear weapons, to prevent the proliferation of such weapons and their delivery vehicles. These range from several treaties between the United States of



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America and Russian Federation as well as various other initiatives, to the Nuclear Suppliers Group, the Missile Technology Control Regime, the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation, and the Wassenaar Arrangement.

### **V. Current issues**

#### **North Korea**

North Korea says it has conducted five successful nuclear tests: in 2006, 2009, 2013 and in January and September 2016. The yield of the bombs appears to have increased. September 2016's test has indicated a device with an explosive yield of between 10 and 30 kilotonnes - which, if confirmed, would make it the North's strongest nuclear test ever.

The other big question is whether the devices being tested are atomic bombs, or hydrogen bombs, which are more powerful.

H-bombs use fusion - the merging of atoms - to unleash massive amounts of energy, whereas atomic bombs use nuclear fission, or the splitting of atoms.

The 2006, 2009 and 2013 tests were all atomic bomb tests. North Korea claimed that its January 2016 test was of a hydrogen bomb. But experts cast doubt on the claim given the size of the explosion registered. Details of the fifth test have not yet been released.

#### **US**



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First, the U.S. has elected to maintain nuclear warheads—based on designs from the 1960s and 1970s—that were in the stockpile when the Cold War ended rather than take advantage of technological developments to field new warheads that could be designed to be safer and more secure and could give the United States improved options for guaranteeing a credible deterrent.

Second, the lack of detailed publicly available data about the readiness of nuclear forces, their capabilities, and weapon reliability makes analysis difficult.

Third, the U.S. nuclear enterprise is composed of many components, some of which are also involved in supporting conventional missions. For example, dual-capable bombers do not fly airborne alert with nuclear weapons today, although they did so routinely during the 1960s (and are capable of doing so again if the decision should ever be made to resume this practice). Additionally, the national security laboratories do not focus solely on the nuclear weapons mission; they also perform a variety of functions related to nuclear nonproliferation, medical research, threat reduction, and countering nuclear terrorism, including nuclear detection

**UK**

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The United Kingdom is a nuclear weapon state party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), and a member of all of the major WMD nonproliferation treaties and international export control regimes. The United Kingdom ratified the NPT in November 1968 and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) in June 1998.

The United Kingdom's total nuclear stockpile consists of around 225 strategic warheads that can be deployed on four Vanguard-class nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines (SSBN). By the mid-2020s, the UK plans to reduce this number to no more than 180.

### **VI. UN action**

Arms limitation and disarmament have been discussed and negotiated at the United Nations over the years. This has resulted in arms treaties, conventions and resolutions that have helped lead to international action on nuclear and conventional arms disarmament. In 2004, Security Council resolution 1540 imposed binding obligations on all States to adopt legislation to prevent proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery, and establish controls over related materials to prevent illicit trafficking. In 2013, the General Assembly adopted the landmark Arms Trade Treaty regulating international conventional arms trade.

### **VII. Conclusion**

Nuclear weapons have shown to be a threat to world peace. Countries are in constant competition in havin the best nuclear equipment and this generates tense relationships between them. Countries possessing huge amounts of nuclear weapons has no benefit in

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relationships between them. In addition, nuclear experimentation could have disastrous results.

### **VIII. Guided questions**

What requirements should a country have for being able to have nuclear weapons?

Should a penalization be applied to countries with nuclear weapons?

How can we reduce the number of nuclear weapons?

How can usage of nuclear weapons be prevented in the future?

What are your solutions for this issue?

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