

Committee: Disarm

Topic: Preventing Nuclear Proliferation Through International Cooperation and Treaties

Report of the Chairs

I. Theme of the Conference

Model United Nations San Antonio (MUNSA) is a conference dedicated to fostering authentic and passionate debate amongst delegates in order to generate solutions to current global issues. The theme of *MUNSA XXIV: Envision* encapsulates our mission to urge delegates to foresee a future in which these problems have been dissolved. With collaboration in mind, delegates from every committee are encouraged to visualize innovative resolutions and a prosperous world to come. Together, we will propel ourselves into an age in which brilliant ideas converge to transform our world and address its most paramount issues.

II. Rationale

Nuclear proliferation is the spread of nuclear weapons to non-nuclear weapon states (NNWS). This creates the possibility of non-nuclear sovereign states suddenly employing nuclear weapons as an act of aggression, further inciting fear and conflict throughout the globe. The Nuclear Proliferation Treaty (NPT) was signed in 1968 and prevents the transfer of nuclear weapons to NNWSs.⁵ However, several countries in the Middle East, including Israel, Iran, and Pakistan, have refused to sign the treaty.³ All three of these countries possess nuclear research power plants.² Eradicating nuclear proliferation would eliminate the possibility of a nuclear attack from a NNWS. This committee visualizes a brighter future in which global tensions regarding nuclear warheads have been erased.

III. Background of the Topic

Nuclear proliferation is defined as the spread of nuclear weapons technology to any nation or state that did not already possess these resources. This type of technology can include fissile material or any type of material that can be used to preserve a nuclear chain reaction.

Nuclear propagation has had a long history of debate ever since the first nuclear device was detonated in 1945.¹⁰ The Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) was put into action in March 1970 after many coalitions pushed for the hindrance of nuclear proliferation in the previous decade. At the time, the United States, Soviet Union, France, United Kingdom, China, and Israel were the only countries that had any amount of nuclear weapons. In the following years, nuclear intelligence spread to India, Pakistan, and North Korea.⁴ Because of this and recent complications regarding the United States and the NPT, the pressure has shifted from focusing on proliferation to impeding development, testing, possession, stockpiling, and deployment through the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).⁸ We would like to encourage nations to collaborate and create an environment exempt from nuclear tensions by eliminating nuclear permeation.

IV. Contemporary Evidence of the Topic

The United States recently pulled out of the Intermediate-Range Forces Treaty (INF), a treaty between the United States and Russia that ban both countries from possessing, producing, or flight-testing ground-launched ballistic and cruise missiles with ranges of 500–5,000 km. Russia quickly followed in the United State's footsteps and withdrew from the INF. The United States, Russia, and China have drastically expanded their nuclear weapon arsenal and research programs after withdrawing from the INF.⁸ Iran has also further developed its nuclear weapons program after the unraveling of the Iran Nuclear Deal, a deal that required Iran to limit all of its nuclear activities in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions.⁷ With the increased dissipation of major nuclear agreements, many people have become fearful that nuclear proliferation will no longer be properly managed.⁸

V. References and Research Resources

1. *Nuclear weapons timeline* | ICAN. (2019). *Icanw.org*. Retrieved 5 September 2019, from <https://www.icanw.org/the-facts/the-nuclear-age/>

2. *Nuclear Weapons: Who Has What at a Glance* | Arms Control Association. (2019). *Armscontrol.org*. Retrieved 5 September 2019, from <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/Nuclearweaponswhohaswhat>
3. *Signature/ratification status of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons* | ICAN. (2019). *Icanw.org*. Retrieved 5 September 2019, from <https://www.icanw.org/status-of-the-treaty-on-the-prohibition-of-nuclear-weapons/>
4. *Timeline of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT)* | Arms Control Association. (2019). *Armscontrol.org*. Retrieved 5 September 2019, from https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/Timeline-of-the-Treaty-on-the-Non-Proliferation-of-Nuclear-Weapons-NPT#t_1950
5. *Treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons – UNODA*. (2019). *Un.org*. Retrieved 5 September 2019, from <https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/tpnw/>
6. (2019). *Worldpopulationreview.com*. Retrieved 5 September 2019, from <http://worldpopulationreview.com/countries/countries-with-nuclear-weapons/>
7. Thakur, R. (2019). *Urgent appeal to save nuclear agreements* | *The Japan Times*. Retrieved 6 September 2019, from <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/opinion/2019/08/25/commentary/japan-commentary/urgent-appeal-save-nuclear-agreements/#.XXKSPihKjD5>
8. *Nuclear Power Must Not Lead to Nuclear Bombs*. (2019). *The National Interest*. Retrieved 6 September 2019, from <https://nationalinterest.org/feature/nuclear-power-must-not-lead-nuclear-bombs-75901>

9. *What the INF Treaty's Collapse Means for Nuclear Proliferation*. (2019). *Council on Foreign Relations*. Retrieved 6 September 2019, from <https://www.cfr.org/in-brief/what-inf-treatys-collapse-means-nuclear-proliferation>
10. *Nuclear proliferation | military*. (2019). *Encyclopedia Britannica*. Retrieved 6 September 2019, from <https://www.britannica.com/topic/nuclear-proliferation>
11. *Nuclear proliferation*. (2009). *En.wikipedia.org*. Retrieved 6 September 2019, from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuclear_proliferation

VI. Note to the Delegates

Greetings, Delegates! We are looking forward to your intuitive problem-solving skills and cannot wait to see what this conference has in store for you. We are eager to witness your abilities to collaborate and provide inventive responses pertaining to the Disarmament Committee. Below you can find our information if you wish to contact us for information relevant to the topic or any other necessary preparations. We are enthusiastic to work alongside you at the upcoming MUNSA XXIV Conference in January!

Best Wishes,

Chloe Steele (csteele4351@stu.neisd.net)

Madison Stevenson (mstevenson6028@stu.neisd.net)

Axel Wilson (awilson4071@stu.neisd.net)

Alejandra Luna (aluna4542@stu.neisd.net)

VII. Director General Contact Information

Joseph Ruelas - jruelas4856@stu.neisd.net

Dana Marion - dm Marion0455@stu.neisd.net