

Nuclear Proliferation, A Global Issue

By Lauren Cushman

“We don’t believe in nuclear warfare whatsoever, because that will lead to mass destruction,” stated the delegation of Cuba. This delegation along with all the other delegates in the DISARM committee at MUNSA XXIV worked to find a solution to the pressing issue that is nuclear proliferation today. The committee’s goal was to find a way to end the threat of nuclear warfare and the spread of nuclear weapons.

Throughout the conference, many solutions were proposed. One such solution proposed by the delegations of Argentina and Niger was a treaty. The two delegations believed in enforcing pre-existing treaties. However, Mexico had an idea for a new treaty. The delegation of Mexico proposed that in this new treaty there would be legal consequences for those who don’t abide by the created rules and would require countries to break down nuclear warheads. This idea was supported by the delegations of India and Cuba.

Many delegates then began debating between sanctions and incentives. Some delegates, such as the delegations of Finland and the United States of America, believed that incentives would be far too weak of a solution. Other delegations like Syria and Cuba, believed that sanctions could lead to unwanted conflict. The delegation of Ireland mentioned the threat posed by terrorist groups coming into possession of nuclear weapons and proposed another treaty. This was met by the delegation of Nepal saying, “terrorist groups do not abide by treaties.”

The delegation of Bolivia proposed that Russia and the U.S. share their non-nuclear technology with other countries to eliminate the need for nuclear weapons. This was followed by a proposal from the delegation of Iran to sell nuclear warheads to breakdown for energy. Many countries opposed this, and very few stood with Iran in their proposed solution. The delegation of the United States of America, one of the nine countries that possess nuclear weapons, believed that Iran had a possible solution, saying “essentially, selling it for energy is the best way to go.” However, the delegation did not believe that this would work for some stating, “for small countries that don’t have the infrastructure to develop the energy power plants, seeking financial aid from ICAP would be the best strategy.”

The majority of the other delegates, however, did not agree. When asked about the proposition of selling the warheads, the delegation of North Korea said, “By distributing nuclear warheads, it’s causing more potential problems. North Korea is going to keep its nuclear warheads as they have rebuilt their entire economy using those nuclear warheads. So it doesn’t make any sense for them to get into the hands of the wrong people.” The delegate of Macedonia even went so far as to

say, “The thought of having ‘warheads’ and ‘selling them’ in the same sentence is a black market waiting to happen.” North Korea and Macedonia share this opinion with the vast majority of the delegates including the delegations of Cuba and Turkey.

In conclusion, there are many possible solutions to the nuclear proliferation problem. While there may be more possible solutions than the ones created at this conference, each one has its pros and cons. The MUNSA XXIV Disarm delegates have a lot of ideas and are not afraid to share them.