



Security Council

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Reducing Nuclear Danger

Report of the FEMUN Secretary-General

Summary

The report provides the main information about international response towards the diminution of nuclear threat in the world. Nuclear danger is egregious call for the global community to work in coherence in order to achieve one common goal, however our world is so erratic that for more than 70 years the United Nations Member States has been combating with this issue. The liaison of organizations as well as regions is the main action for the elimination of nuclear weapons which subsequently may lead the world towards the total abolishment of such missiles. Nevertheless, all countries are separated for those who may have stockpiles of nuclear weapons and those who are prohibited, which organizes basic imparity and from the ideology of this separation creates jeopardy of undercover nuclear elaboration.

Nonetheless, the containment of the nuclear weapons is the priority worldwide as for the last years the attention of the Member States goes to the reciprocity of all for the creation of the Nuclear Weapons Convention. Will it bring our world to the total erasure of this threat? The international community has no clear answer to this question, however, the process of reinforcement of commitments by Member States grows rapidly, which gives a hope for the total annihilation of this atrocious imminence all over the globe.

I. Past international actions

1. After the discovery of the nuclear fission, which means division of nucleus of an atom into different parts, in 1938 the level of attempts of the nuclear weapons creation rapidly increased. German scientists gathered to determine whether nuclear weapons would be relevant in the nearest future to warrant the considerable expenditure required to develop the technology, which became the first step towards raising awareness about nuclear danger. Subsequently, the number of scientists working on applied nuclear fission began to diminish, as times required more pressing forms of this Weapon of Mass Destruction. Till 1945 German nuclear weapon project was the biggest threat for the international community.

2. On July 16, 1945 the first atomic bomb was successfully tested in Alamogordo, New Mexico (USA), by the United States Army. This case became an outrageous precedent on the world arena and triggered the threat of the nuclear weapons worldwide. The code name of the first detonation of nuclear weapon was "Trinity". Further described actions became a reaction of the global arena.

3. The first Resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1946 established the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission (UNAEC) to deal with problems related to the discovery of atomic energy among Member States. The Commission was to make proposals for, inter alia, the control of atomic energy to the extent necessary to ensure its usage only for peaceful purposes. The Resolution also stated States parties 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*".¹

4. The term of the Weapons of Mass Distraction (WMD) started to be used worldwide since the year of 1945, however it was defined by different meaning. Hence, on December 9, 1981 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Resolution where WMD were described as: atomic explosive weapons, radioactive material weapons, lethal chemical and biological weapons and any weapons developed in the future which have characteristics comparable in destructive effect to those of the atomic bomb or the other weapons mentioned above.²

¹ United Nations General Assembly Resolution "To deal with the problems raised by the discovery of atomic energy" [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/1\(I\)](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/1(I)), accessed 1 March, 2017.

² United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/36/97 <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/36/a36r097.htm>, accessed 1 March, 2017.

5. Due to the fact that danger of detonation of nuclear weapon remained relevant those days, the global community came up with the fact that countries were lack of the international mechanism for regulation of the Weapons of Mass Destruction. Hence, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) was adopted. The Treaty entered into force in 1970. Under the NPT, countries which exploded nuclear devices before 1 January 1967 (United States, the Soviet Union, United Kingdom, France, and China) are recognized as nuclear weapons states. There are 191 states, which are party to the NPT, however four states - India, Israel, Pakistan, and South Sudan - have never signed the treaty, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) declared secession from the Treaty in 2003. The NPT is essential in terms of prohibiting Member States from supplying or obtaining nuclear devices and further urges the pursuit of negotiations on effective international measures of completing disarmament. In accordance with Article 8 of the NPT, a review conference has been convened every five years since 1975 for the States parties to discuss ways to strengthen implementation of the NPT. To further the goal of non-proliferation and as a confidence-building measure between States parties, the Treaty establishes a safeguards system under the responsibility of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).³

6. To find a consensus between the USA, the Soviet Union and the United Kingdom upon the question of the test ban, the *Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water* (PTBT) was created, after that moment 126 Countries became the Parties of this Treaty, when 10 signed but not ratified. The Treaty requires Parties to prohibit, prevent, and abstain from carrying out nuclear weapons tests or any other nuclear explosions in the atmosphere, in outer space, under water, or in any other environment if such explosions cause radioactive debris to be present outside the territorial limits of the State that conducts an explosion; to refrain from causing, encouraging, or in any way participating in, the carrying out of any nuclear weapon test explosion, or any other nuclear explosion, anywhere which would take place in any of the above-described environments. The PTBT does not provide international verification; however, each party may do so by its own national technical means.⁴

7. Furthermore, the world was facing with new problems, which raised the issue of creation of the multilateral treaty in order to prohibit any use of nuclear weapons. In this regard, the

³The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)
<https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/npt/text>, accessed 1 March, 2017.

⁴Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water (PTBT)
<https://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/UNTS/Volume%20480/volume-480-I-6964-English.pdf>, accessed 2 March, 2017.

Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) was signed in September 1996, but has not entered into force. The CTBT bans any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion the in 1996. With the signing of this treaty, the PTBT became redundant. The UN General Assembly passed Resolution 50/64 urging the conclusion of the CTBT and urged all States not already doing so to adhere to the PTBT as this document became a predecessor of the CTBT.⁵

8. Moreover, the control of the WMD on the national level became important for Member States in order to ensure their security, that was created a *Missile Technology Control Regime* (MTCR). The original goal of this regime was to limit the risks of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (i.e. nuclear, chemical and biological weapons) by controlling the transfers that could make a contribution to delivery systems for such weapons. The main idea of the regime is to reduce the risks of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons by restraining the transfers that could make a contribution to delivery systems for such weapons.⁶

9. For the international community to be sure that the danger of the nuclear weapons will be eradicated the regional treaties started to be signed. *Treaty of Tlateloco or Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean* entered into force on April 5, 1969, where 33 States became Parties of this Treaty. The Treaty aims to the prohibition and prevention of testing, manufacture, storage, deployment, installation and etc. of nuclear weapons in the region.⁷

10. Previous Treaty showed the great example of the coherence between countries for the diminution of the worldwide threat. That is why countries of the South Pacific Region took the liability and signed the *Treaty of Rarotonga*, which entered into force on December 11, 1986. Currently there are 13 full members of this Treaty, where States Parties are obligated not to have control over any nuclear weapons or not to possess any of them. Moreover, Member States shall not provide sources or special fissionable materials or equipment to any non-nuclear weapon State.⁸

⁵ The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) was signed in 1996 but has not entered into force https://www.ctbto.org/fileadmin/content/treaty/treaty_text.pdf, accessed 2 March, 2017.

⁶ Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) <https://fas.org/nuke/control/mtr/text/>, accessed 2 March, 2017.

⁷ Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean <https://www.iaea.org/publications/documents/treaties/treaty-prohibition-nuclear-weapons-latin-america-tlatelolco-treaty>, accessed 2 March, 2017.

⁸ South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone <https://fas.org/nuke/control/spnfz/text/spnfz.htm>, accessed 2 March, 2017.

11. Southeast Asia was not an exception and also signed the *Treaty of Bangkok* in 1997. Treaty obliged its States Parties not to test or use nuclear weapons anywhere inside or outside the Treaty zone as well as not to possess or develop any nuclear weapon.⁹ In contemporary world, there are 10 States, which are Parties to this Treaty.

12. In the 21 century world also executed three new Treaties, where the Parties undertake not to conduct research on, develop, manufacture, stockpile or otherwise acquire, possess, or have control over any nuclear explosive device by any means anywhere etc. According to them the receipt, storage, stockpiling, installation, or other form of possession of any nuclear weapon or nuclear explosive device on the territory of the member states is prohibited.¹⁰

13. These Treaties are *African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty* and *Central Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone*, which entered into force in 2009. However, the Nuclear weapon free status of Mongolia appeared in 2000. That is self-declared nuclear-weapon-free status, which has been recognized internationally through the adoption of UN General Assembly Resolution on “*Mongolia’s international security and nuclear weapon free status*”. The main obligations are not to allow any individual on the territory of Mongolia to use, manufacture, station, possess or transport nuclear weapons by any means.¹¹

14. Besides national and regional measures the international community proceeded with the implementation of the nuclear non-proliferation amelioration. Therefore, the United Nations Security Council Resolution 984 was adopted on April 11, 1995. This Resolution guarantees security to the non-nuclear states, which are parties to the NPT, as it is aimed to prevent nuclear proliferation as well as to facilitate international cooperation of peaceful means. Moreover, permanent Member States (all possess nuclear weapons) of the Security Council gave an assurance to the non-nuclear countries that they will spread peace and security globally.¹²

15. Further actions of the Security Council were aimed at elimination of the nuclear stockpiles all over the world. With all the perseverance the Security Council Member States found common solution upon this issue and passed the Resolution 1373 where they express their

⁹ Treaty of Bangkok or Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone <http://disarmament.un.org/treaties/t/bangkok/text>, accessed 2 March, 2017.

¹⁰ Central Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone http://www.nti.org/media/pdfs/aptcanwz.pdf?_id=1316629464, accessed 5 March, 2017.

¹¹ Nuclear weapon free status of Mongolia http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/55/33, accessed 5 March, 2017.

¹² The United Nations Security Council Resolution 984 (adopted on April 11, 1995) <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N95/106/06/PDF/N9510606.pdf?OpenElement> accessed 7 March, 2017.

concern upon the close connection between international terrorism and illegal movement of nuclear materials. The resolution also established the Security Council's Counter Terrorism Committee to monitor state compliance with its provisions.

16. The establishment of the *Counter Terrorism Committee* was merely the first big transformation in the world monitoring system, as in 2004 Member States were aspired to enhance the mechanism of the control upon the Weapons of Mass Destruction. Hence, the United Nations Security Council passed the Resolution 1540 where Committee stated that all States shall refrain from providing any form of support to non-State actors that attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery, in particular for terrorist purposes.¹³

17. Resolutions of the Security Council are not the only documents in the international system which may influence the progress toward the nuclear weapons abolishment. As an example, the *Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation* (HCOC), formerly known as “The International Code of Conduct” (ICOC), was adopted at an international conference held on 25-26 November 2002 in The Hague. The Code is meant to supplement the MTCR. The HCOC is aimed at the diminution of proliferation of missiles worldwide, including Weapons of Mass Destructions.

II. Recent developments

18. On 22 - 26 February, 2016 the first session of the open-ended working group (OEWG) on nuclear disarmament was held in Geneva. During this session most of the countries supported the idea of opening negotiations for a nuclear ban treaty. Nuclear-reliant states present did not support this approach to disarmament, speaking in favor of a “building-blocks,” or “progressive,” approach.

19. According to the Non Proliferation Treaty, particularly article VIII, paragraph 3, this document envisages a review of the operation of the Treaty every five years, a provision which was reaffirmed by the States parties at the 1995 NPT Review, Extension Conference and the 2000 NPT Review Conference. At the 2015 NPT Review Conference, States parties examined

¹³ The United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540
<http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/naruhodo/data/pdf/data2-3.pdf>, accessed 7 March, 2017.

the implementation of the Treaty's provisions since 2010. Despite intensive consultations, the Conference was not able to reach agreement on the substantive part of the draft Final Document as that was problematical for nuclear states to find common points upon this issue, which raises new questions upon the coherence work of the states that possess nuclear weapons.

20. For the United Nations Member States to be acquainted with actual situation in contemporary world in the sphere of nuclear disarmament the Report of the Secretary-General the Follow-up to the 2013 High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament was presented in 2016. It is written there that Member States are committed to nuclear disarmament, which is the highest priority in the area of disarmament.

21. On December 23, 2016 the Resolution 71/258 was passed, there the General Assembly decided to convene in 2017 a United Nations conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination. In this regard, the United Nations Conference *to Negotiate a Legally Binding Instrument to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons, Leading Towards their Total Elimination* will be held in 2017. The decision to convene the Conference followed from the recommendation of the open-ended working group on taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations.

III. Observations and Recommendations

22. At the 2010 Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in New York a number of states and non-governmental organizations called for a *Nuclear Weapons Convention* (NWC), which would implement the comprehensive goal of a world without nuclear weapons. The final document of the conference noted UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's five-point proposal for nuclear disarmament of 24 October 2008, "*which proposes, inter alia, consideration of negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention or agreement on a framework of separate mutually reinforcing instruments, backed by a strong system of verification*". Many states and most anti-nuclear civil society groups now see negotiation of an NWC in the near future as politically feasible and indeed necessary if we are to move beyond the current disarmament stalemate. Ban Ki-moon here describes the importance of

fulfillment of obligation by all parties to the NPT as well as underscores that increasing of accountability and transparency by all States parties to the NPT is an essential measure. ¹⁴

23. On 2 May, 2016 the *International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons* (ICAN) hosted a side event to the OEWG at the United Nations in Geneva to highlight the global support for a ban on nuclear weapons. Speakers focused on the likely effects of a ban, while selected panelists discussed some of the challenges they faced in campaigning for a ban treaty in their respective regions.

24. Besides the governmental assistance upon the issue of the nuclear non-proliferation, Non-Governmental Organizations also have their impact to the international community. As an example International Conference on Nuclear Security was held in 2016 and was aimed at ministers, senior government officials, high level staff from all of the agencies involved in making policy for, and managing, nuclear security, and at technical and legal experts working in all areas of nuclear security. The conference was convened to discuss the national and international community's experiences and achievements to date in strengthening nuclear security. Moreover, participants were targeted to enhance understanding of current approaches to nuclear security worldwide as well as to identify trends and to provide an inclusive forum at which ministers, policymakers, senior officials and nuclear security experts will be able to formulate and exchange views on future directions and priorities for nuclear security and how these may evolve.

25. Moreover, non-partisan forum Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament is the international platform for parliamentarians nationally and internationally to share resources and information, develop cooperative strategies and engage in nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament issues, initiatives and arenas. More than that it provides parliamentarians with the information on nuclear disarmament issues and on international events including United Nations disarmament meetings.

IV. Further research

¹⁴ The United Nations and Security in a Nuclear-Weapon-Free world
<https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/sg5point/>, accessed 10 March, 2017

26. The question of nuclear non-proliferation worldwide is a complicated topic, however the international community is moving toward its implementation. For the last years the United Nations has raised the tremendous importance over the negotiations on a treaty to ban nuclear weapons, taking into account that nuclear-armed nations as well as their allies are strongly oppose this idea. The situation in contemporary world is not stable in the sphere of nuclear disarmament as all regions need to start moving towards collaboration.

27. Creation of a multinational Nuclear Weapons Convention could also be a worldwide decision, as recently, civil society advocacy and diplomatic efforts toward nuclear disarmament have focused on the negotiation of a nuclear weapons ban, rather than the proposed Nuclear Weapons Convention. Proponents of the nuclear weapons ban argue that a legally-binding prohibition on nuclear weapons is an obligation under the NPT and will establish an international norm against nuclear weapons, while opponents characterize the initiative as unrealistic political grandstanding.

28. Threat in Korean Peninsula remains up to date as before 2017 and in this very year as North Korea launch of ballistic missiles raises worries among nations. Does the international community have instruments of influence on this country? What were the reasons of the North Korea withdrawal from the Non-Proliferation Treaty? Is it possible to retrieve North Korea to the NPT and does the international community need this country to be in the NPT?

29. Middle East question, Indian nuclear program history, Iranian nuclear program etc. These topics are only the top of the iceberg and global society has a big platform toward the elimination of this issue.

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Address to the East-West Institute: "The United Nations and Security in a Nuclear-Weapon-Free world" <https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/sg5point>, accessed 10 March, 2017.

IV. Useful links

The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

<http://www.unidir.org/>

Stockpile of every essential document relevant to the agenda item

<https://treaties.un.org/>

International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

<http://www.un.org/en/events/nuclearweapone Elimination/>

Federation of American Scientists

<https://fas.org/>

The Issue of Missiles in All Its Aspects

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Disarmament Study Series

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International Committee of the Red Cross

<https://www.icrc.org/en/home>

Our World in Data

<https://ourworldindata.org/nuclear-weapons/>

Data Concerning Nuclear Issues

<http://www.asahi.com/hibakusha/english/shimen/book/data.pdf>