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BACKGROUND PAPER

Topic: "Addressing the renewed global nuclear arms race and its implications for international security"

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General Assembly

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Committee Background

The General Assembly committee is the largest committee in MUN and simulates the real UN General Assembly. It includes delegates from all countries, providing a realistic simulation of large-scale international diplomacy.

As the general assembly is the largest UN committee, its work is to advise on the consequences and global impact of nuclear arsenals, and to prepare all countries in case anything fails, maintain global peace to make sure every country follows all the treaties.

Introduction of the Topic



The world is facing a high growing concern regarding the renewed nuclear arms race, marked by the modernization existing arsenals and rising tension among the main nuclear powers. Many states including United States of America and the Russian Federation have intensified their strategic nuclear development and researching programs since the Cold War. Key treaties, such as the 2019 intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, created a regulatory gap and increased perception in global security.

Beyond the traditional powers, other nations such as the Republic of India or the Democratic People's Republic of Korea maintain active programs that contribute to regional tensions, especially in Asia. Furthermore programs such as the State of Israel pose proliferation risk in the Middle East.

Active states that promotes nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, supported by treaties such as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NTP) emphasizing both international security, humanitarian and ethical consideration.

The General Assembly in this context faces the challenges of addressing the implications in this renewed nuclear arm race for international security.



Evolution of the Topic

The first nuclear arm program began after World War II, when United States dropped two atomic bombs over Japan, specifically Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. The Soviet Union in response tested their own atomic bomb in 1949, creating the competition between two superpowers.

During the Cold War, both powers manage their nuclear arsenals through arms control agreements, such as the Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty in 1963. These agreements aimed to limit the number of nuclear weapons and reduce the risk of a nuclear war.

The nuclear landscape has evolved. Major powers have reduced their nuclear arsenal through various treaties. However, recent developments indicate a resurgence in nuclear tension. Countries like People's Democratic Republic of China are expanding their nuclear capabilities, additionally, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea advancements in intercontinental ballistic missiles or Islamic Republic of Iran's nuclear program have raised concerns.

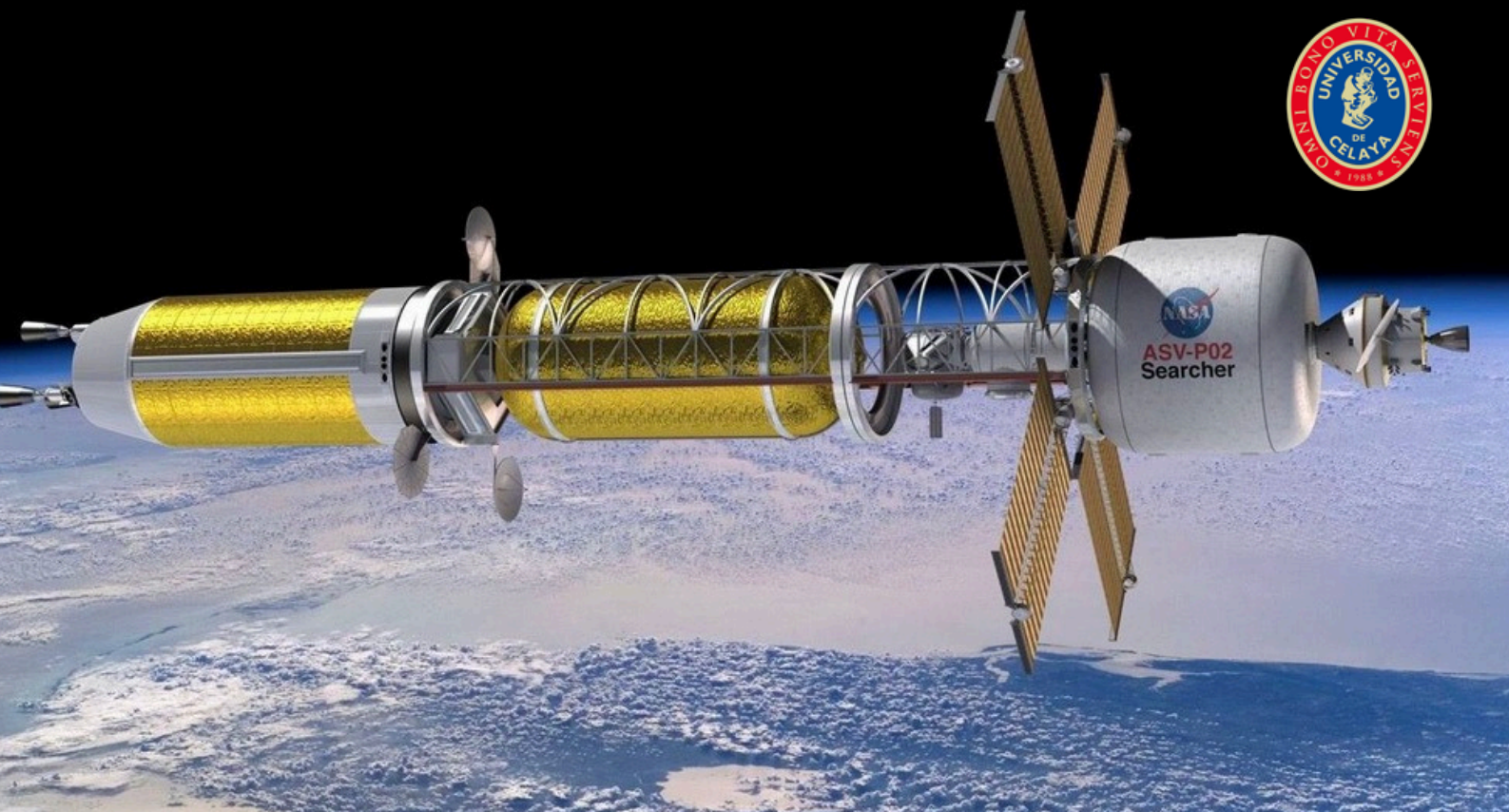
External Actions

In the last decades, various treaties have been signed and established to stop the nuclear proliferation and promote all types of disarmament. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), that was adopted in 1968, and commits States to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. Additionally the Comprehensive-Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) plans to ban nuclear testing.

Important World Leaders have taken diplomatic actions and made public statements referring to the nuclear threat. In 1987 Ronald Reagan's speech talked about the Cold War, that speech encouraged dialogue and pressured nations to participate in disarmament negotiations.

The United Nations have played a key role in promoting nuclear disarmament. The Resolution 79/41, hopes for the acceleration of nuclear disarmament. Moreover the UN created campaigns, conferences and research in society to raise awareness about nuclear risks.





Committee Focus

General Assembly Council, focuses on the renewed global nuclear arms race, driven by the modernization of arsenals, rising military expenditures, and the erosion of arms-control frameworks. The collapse or weakening of agreements such as New START and challenges to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) have heightened mistrust among major powers, raising the risk of escalation and undermining global security.

At the same time, new technologies; including AI, missile defense, space systems, and cyber tools further complicate strategic stability by lowering boundaries for use and increasing chances of miscalculation. The GAC focuses on issues related to international peace and security, with the power to authorize resolutions, sanctions, and military interventions. The purpose is to analyze historical decision-making processes and their global implications, this committee encourages delegates to think critically about historical context, diplomacy, and compromise, and to develop a deeper understanding of international relations, geopolitics, and global peace.

KEY FOCUS STATEMENTS TO DISCUSS:

- Weakening of arms control treaties
- Development of new military technologies (AI, cyber, hypersonic weapons)
- Rising risk of nuclear conflict or accidents
- Humanitarian and environmental consequences of nuclear weapons
- Resources spent on weapons instead of peace and development

Conclusion

The return of the global nuclear arms race presents a challenge to international peace and security, requiring urgent action from the global community. Geopolitical tensions rise and intensify; technological advancements lower the threshold for nuclear engagement, the risk of miscalculation or escalation grows alarmingly real. To address the international community must prioritize diplomatic frameworks, stronger arms control agreements, and a recommitment to non-proliferation principles. Dialogue, transparency, and mutual trust, are essential to reverse this trajectory and prevent a future shaped by nuclear conflict.

Nuclear weapons represent a struggle that is strategic, political, ethical and technological. As a strategy they are seen as tools of prevention, yet their presence fuels arms races and increases risk of accidental or unauthorized launches. Politically, the collapse of arms control treaties and the rise of new nuclear powers destabilized global security frameworks. Ethically, the potential for mass destruction and humanitarian consequences of their use raise urgent moral questions.

Technologically, modernization and cyber vulnerabilities create risks of miscalculation and system failures.

This complex web of challenges underscores the paradox of nuclear weapons. While intended to protect, they simultaneously threaten the very survival of humanity. Addressing this struggle requires renewed international cooperation, robust arms control mechanisms, and a shared commitment to reducing nuclear risks.





Countries Position

North Korea: Outside the NPT, North Korea actively develops nuclear weapons and missile systems. Pyongyang views its arsenal as essential for regime survival and strategic leverage. It faces global sanctions and isolation over repeated nuclear tests.

Russia: Russia holds one of the largest nuclear arsenals and prioritizes deterrence amid global tensions. It suspended participation in New START and continues to upgrade its strategic forces. Moscow rejects the TPNW and uses nuclear rhetoric to assert geopolitical influence.

USA: As a nuclear superpower, the U.S. maintains a vast arsenal and leads global deterrence strategy. Washington supports the NPT but opposes the TPNW, citing strategic stability and alliance commitments. It modernizes its triad and extends nuclear protection to allies through NATO and bilateral pacts.

United Kingdom: As a NATO member, the UK maintains a submarine-based nuclear deterrent. London supports the NPT but opposes the TPNW, citing alliance obligations. It plans to increase its warhead cap while promoting arms control diplomacy.

Japan: Japan opposes nuclear weapons due to its history as the only nation attacked with them. It adheres to the TPNW no possession, production, or hosting of nukes—while relying on the U.S. nuclear umbrella for security. Japan supports global disarmament but hasn't joined the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, citing strategic concerns.

Iran: Iran remains an NPT member but faces scrutiny over its enrichment program. Tehran claims peaceful intent, though JCPOA compliance remains unresolved. It has not signed the TPNW and is closely monitored by the IAEA.

Saudi Arabia: Saudi Arabia is an NPT signatory with no declared weapons program. It explores nuclear energy and has hinted at matching Iran's capabilities if needed. A defense pact with Pakistan raises concerns about future proliferation.

Austria: Austria is a leading disarmament advocate and early TPNW supporter. It emphasizes humanitarian consequences and rejects deterrence logic. Vienna promotes universal abolition and treaty compliance.



Countries Position

India: India is a state that is not part of the NTP and has and maintain its own nuclear arsenal, specially focused on the protection from regional rivals like Pakistan or China. New Delhi used the justification of citizens and national security. But India supports gradually the idea of a global disarmament.

Pakistan: Pakistan policies maintain this country outside the NTP. having developed various nuclear weapons directly responding to India's own program. Islamabad emphasizes their program and nuclear arsenals are essential for maintaining a balance in Southern Asia.

Sweden: The Swedish policies marked it as a neutral state and have a strict anti-nuclear policy, Stockholm has take action, promoting and supporting the UN disarmament agenda. In 2017 Sweden participated in the negotiation of the TPNW, and in 2022 became a NATO member. Sweden has become also a vocal voice against any nuclear test worldwide.

China: While China is a nuclear state under the NTP, only maintains its policy to the "No First Use". Beijing promotes nuclear disarmament, but highlights the importance that all countries like U.S. or Russia should led the reductions, since they hold various arms. China has recently modernize its nuclear forces, concerning transparency and commitment.

Israel: Unlike other islamic states, maintain a policy of "nuclear ambiguity", and has never confirmed or denied the possession of nuclear arms. Also is not part of the NTP. Jerusalem justifies its instance in national security, and given instability in Middle East. Israel believes and had think possessing nuclear arsenals.

Germany: As a NATO member, Germany had participate in nuclear sharing, as host of various U.S. nuclear weapons depots. Berlin pushes the strengthening the international treaties but being part of the NATO contradicts its advocacy for global disarmament and ensures security between its alliances.

Indonesia: Indonesia ratified the TPNW and advocates for Southeast Asia's nuclear-free status. It supports peaceful nuclear use and legally binding security assurances. Jakarta promotes disarmament through ASEAN and UN forums.

Egypt: Egypt supports a nuclear-free Middle East and remains an NPT member. It opposes the TPNW and calls for Israel's inclusion in disarmament efforts. Cairo promotes peaceful nuclear energy under IAEA oversight.

South Africa: South Africa dismantled its nuclear arsenal and became a disarmament leader. It signed both the NPT and TPNW, advocating transparency and global abolition. Pretoria uses its G20 chairmanship to promote nuclear safety.

Mexico: Mexico is strongly anti-nuclear and part of the Treaty of Tlatelolco. It ratified the TPNW and promotes disarmament through regional diplomacy. Mexico supports peaceful nuclear technology under strict safeguards.

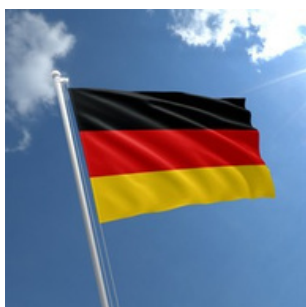
Brazil: Brazil dismantled its secret weapons program and now supports peaceful nuclear use. It signed the TPNW but has yet to ratify it, citing strategic autonomy. Brasília promotes regional stability and non-proliferation.

Turkey: As a NATO member, Turkey hosts U.S. nuclear weapons under alliance sharing. It criticizes the NPT's imbalance and explores nuclear energy partnerships. An expanding nuclear infrastructure raises regional proliferation concerns.

New Zealand: New Zealand is legally nuclear-free and bans nuclear-armed ships. It ratified the TPNW and leads Pacific disarmament efforts. Wellington promotes humanitarian awareness and verification protocols.

Norway: Norway supports disarmament but hasn't signed the TPNW due to NATO ties. It promotes verification and transparency in arms control. Oslo urges nuclear powers to resume dialogue and reduce arsenals.

Participation List



Germany



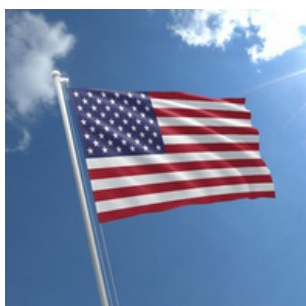
South Korea



Russia



United Kingdom



USA



India



Pakistan



Israel



China



Iran



Saudi Arabia



Indonesia

Participation List



Egypt



Sweden



South Africa



Mexico



Brazil



Japan



Turkey



New Zealand



Norway



Austria



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