

DISARMAMENT AND SECURITY COUNCIL

Topic A: The Threat of Non-State Actors Acquiring Weapons of Mass Destruction such as chemical weapons: Prevention and Mitigation Strategies
Topic B: Nuclear Program: Should the international community take stronger action against nations violating nuclear treaties?



Index

Introduction to Chairs.....	3
Introduction to the committee.....	4
Intro to Topic A.....	6
Key points Topic A.....	7
Context.....	8
Current situation.....	9
Mitigation Strategies.....	10
Major Parties.....	11
Bibliography.....	12
Intro Topic B.....	14
Key terms.....	15
Past actions.....	16
Key Points to debate.....	18
Main Parties.....	19
Bibliography.....	20

Introduction to Chairs

Hello everybody!

Welcome to the 3rd edition of Kings College Soto de Viñuelas Model United Nations and welcome to the Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC). We are Ana Mulet and Nicholas Brookes and we will be chairing this conference's lovely committee. It is both our second time chairing a committee and we could not be more excited to do it again in this edition.

This is your study guide to help guide you through your research on the committee's topic, however we strongly recommend that you also do your own independent research in order to be fully prepared to bring up key points in your country's perspective during the debate. The study guide is here simply to serve as a topic overview. Please note that this is an intermediate committee and we will encourage everyone to speak, especially if you're a main party.

We'd also like to remind the delegates that this committee is a respectful place and any harassment and/or discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age or disability will not be tolerated at all and serious consequences will be incurred if this is not respected. This will be enforced so that we can ensure that everyone in this committee will have loads of fun as well as a wonderful time debating.

If you have any doubts don't hesitate to email us at ana.mul.per@kcpupils.org or nicholas.bro@kcpupils.org (if you do not have a Kings College account, you can email us at anamuletperez@gmail.com). We wish you the best of luck preparing for this event and we look forward to seeing you at the conference!

See you soon :)

Best wishes

Ana and Nicholas

Introduction to the Committee



The United Nations (UN) Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC) was created as the first of the UN's Main Committees when the UN Charter was signed in 1945. DISEC's role in the General Assembly is to help set "general principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security," including disarmament and arms control. DISEC can also make recommendations to the UN members or the Security Council. While DISEC cannot directly influence the Security Council's decisions, it can suggest topics for the Security Council to consider. DISEC works closely with the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), created in 1998. The UNODA focuses on all levels of disarmament, such as nuclear weapons and conventional weapons, and helps DISEC achieve its disarmament goals.

Introduction to Topic A:

In the 21st century the spread of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons is no longer just a national issue within each country but a world-wide concern that affects most of the world. Non-state actors, such as terrorist groups, insurgent groups, transnational criminal networks and extremist cells have demonstrated intent and capability to obtain such weapons of mass destruction (WMDs). The possibility of these groups using these agents poses a severe threat to global stability, public health and humanitarian norms.

Unlike military-grade weapons, chemical weapons are relatively cheap to produce compared to nuclear weapons, can be manufactured using civilian infrastructure, and can cause mass casualties with minimal resources. The Syrian Civil War, for instance, demonstrated how organised terrorist groups could deploy chemical weapons, while incidents like the 1995 Tokyo subway sarin attack revealed potential of chemical weapon use outside of war zones.

Topic A: Key points and Definitions

Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs) - Weapons capable of inflicting large-scale death and destruction, includes nuclear, chemical and biological weapons

Chemical weapons - Toxic chemicals intended to cause death, injury, temporary incapacitation, or sensory irritation through chemical action

Non-State Actors (NSAs) - Individuals or organizations not formally affiliated with or recognized as states, including terrorists, insurgents, criminal cartels and extremist groups

Dual-use technology - Civilian technologies and materials that can be adapted for military purposes, including chemical weapon production

Prevention - Measures taken and aimed at stopping non-state actors from acquiring, producing or deploying WMDs

Mitigation - Actions designed to reduce the severity and impact of a WMD incident

Topic A: Context and History

Aum Shinrikyo Tokyo Subway Attack (1995): Japanese cult releases sarin gas into the Tokyo metro system as the first ever large-scale chemical weapon attack by a non-government organisation in a major city killing 13 people and injuring over 1000

ISIS in Iraq and Syria (2014-2017): the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) uses mustard and chlorine gas against civilians and military targets provided from industrial facilities from captured land

Salisbury Novichok Incident (2018): assassination of Sergei Skripal outside a conflict zone using novichok, a powerful nerve agent, showing the international community the capabilities of chemical weapons

Topic A: Current International and legal framework

Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC): outlaws production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons, enforced by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004): requires all states to prevent non-state actors from acquiring WMDs

Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI): a multinational effort to put an end to the trafficking to chemical weapons

INTERPOL Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear Explosives (CBRNE) Programme: international law enforcement cooperation against WMD threats

Topic A: Mitigation strategies.

- Early detection systems- medical and environmental systems for fast detection of the deployment of chemical weapons
- Civilian preparedness- public education on recognising and responding to chemical attacks
- First responder training- funding first responders to carry antidotes and protective equipment to stop chemical attacks
- Rapid international response mechanisms- enabling OPCW and other UN organisations to be deployed and able to rapidly respond to chemical attacks
- Medical countermeasures- stockpiling antidotes for nerve agents and chemical weapons exposure

Topic A: Major Parties

- United States of America: leads global initiatives like the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) which support border security programs in vulnerable states, has dismantled large amounts of weapons with the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), their intelligence networks track international terrorist groups and weapon trafficking organisations
- Russian Federation: possesses powerful chemical detection capabilities, permanent member of UNSC (United Nations Security Council), accused of helping other countries over international penalties over chemical weapon incidents (eg. Syria)
- Syrian Arab Republic: large amount of land controlled by ISIS and other armed groups that possess chemical weapons, site of chemical weapon attacks during the civil war
- Republic of Iraq: victim of ISIS chemical attacks, works tightly together with the Organisation of the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), major site for chemical weapon smuggling in the Middle East

Topic A: Bibliography

Reports

Preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons

<https://www.iss.europa.eu/publications/briefs/preventing-re-emergence-chemical-weapons>

United Nations: Disarmament

<https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/disarmament>

Websites

Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

<https://www.opcw.org>

USA Government: Proliferation Security Initiative

<https://www.state.gov/bureau-of-international-security-and-nonproliferation/proliferation-security-initiative>

INTERPOL: Terrorism crime (please explore bioterrorism, nuclear terrorism and chemical and explosives terrorism (can be found on the left-hand side))

<https://www.interpol.int/en/Crimes/Terrorism>

News

BBC: Novichok attacks

<https://www.bbc.com/news/topics/c0j915myy8kt>

Guardian: ISIS use of chemical weapons

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jul/09/isis-seizes-chemical-weapons-plant-muthanna-iraq>

Introduction to Topic B

Nuclear weapons have been used in war twice, namely Hiroshima and Nagasaki, yet around 130,000 have been built and testing history exceeded 2,000 explosions. The UN has treated disarmament as a top priority since the first General Assembly resolution in 1946, and it continues to believe that nuclear disarmament is essential to global peace and security.

Topic B: Key terms

Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT): International treaty with three pillars: non-proliferation, peaceful uses and disarmament. It has the objective to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and reach the goal of achieving nuclear, general and complete disarmament.

Safeguards/ IAEA: Verification measure to ensure that nuclear material is not diverted to weapons.

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT): Bans all nuclear test explosions; whether for military or civilian purposes.

Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW): Prohibits development, possession, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons.

Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones (NWFZs): Regional treaties that reinforce nonproliferation.

Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA): Also known as the Iran nuclear deal is designed to ensure that Iran's nuclear programme is peaceful.

UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2231: Endorses the JCPOA and sets timelines and restrictions related to Iran's nuclear programme.

New START (2010/2011): US-Russia treaty capping deployed strategic forces. Verification suspended by Russia in 2023.

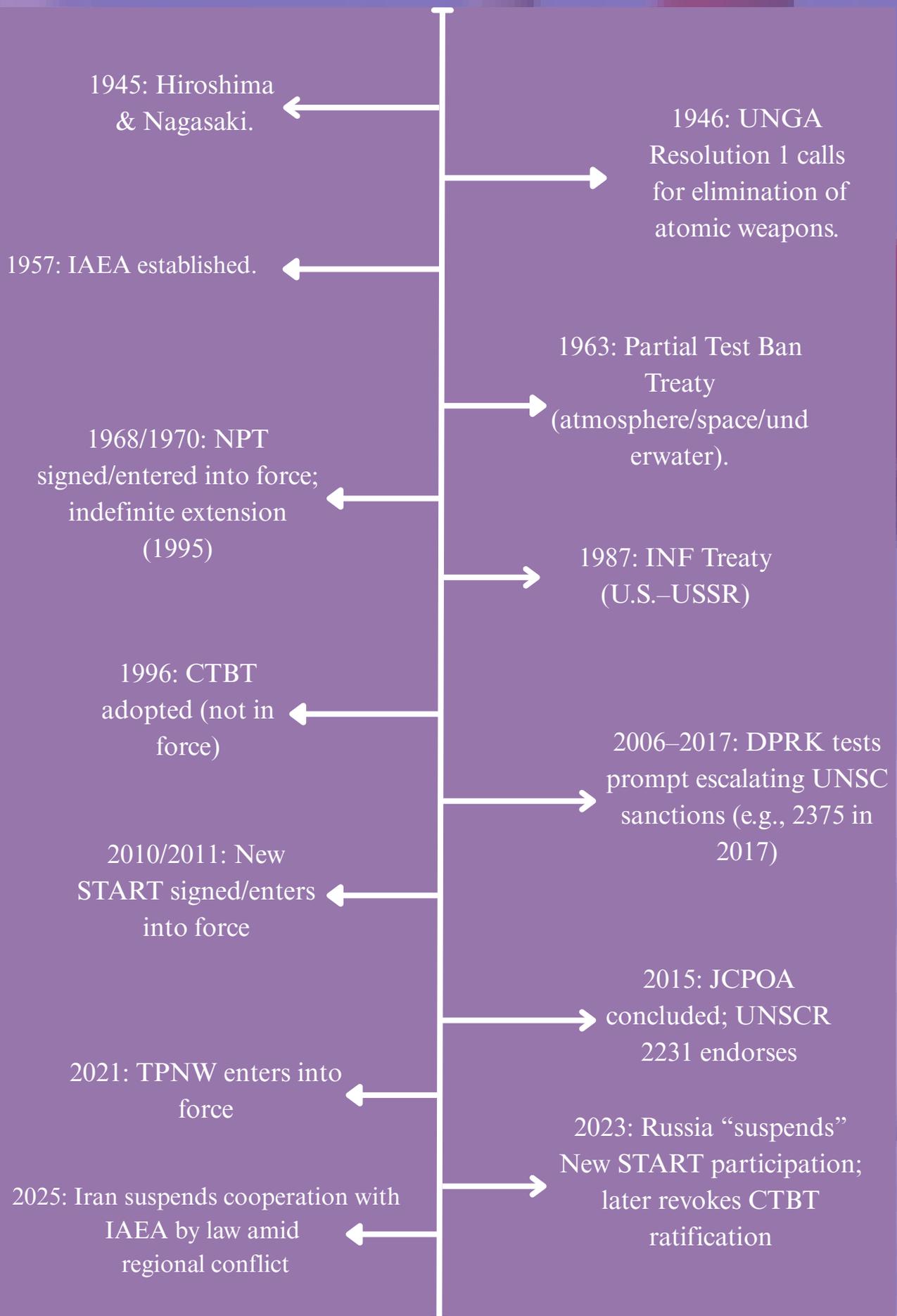
Topic B: Past Actions

- Global treaties and regimes: NPT, CYNT, TPNW, export controls, NWFZs across Latin America, Caribbean, South Pacific, SE Asia, Africa and Central Asia.
- UN Security Council sanction: Extensive DPRK (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) sanctions via the 1718 regime (oil caps, trade bans and asset freezes) and monitoring.
- Iran framework: JCPOA endorsed in UNSCR 2231 with monitoring through the IAEA.
- Bilateral arms control: An agreement between two countries to limit, reduce, or manage nuclear weapons. The more important ones for this topic are; SALT, INF and the New START.
- Humanitarian-driven norm-building: Negotiation and adoption of the TPNW, documented by UNIDIR and advocated by ICAN.

Topic B: Key Points to Debate

- Verification and its challenges: How have organisations like the IAEA handled limited access in the past? What has worked? What can change?
- Fairness & obligations: Do all states follow the same rules under current treaties? Should nuclear states have stronger rules than non-nuclear states?
- Role of testing bans: How do agreements like the CTBT influence global norms, even if they're not in force? Are they effective?
- Technology & proliferation risks: How has nuclear technology changed? Is it more of a risk than it was before, now that we live in a more technologically advanced world?
- Sanctions: Which countries have faced them for nuclear activities, and were they effective? Should countries be sanctioned? If so, how and why?

Topic B: Timeline:



Topic B: Main Parties:

United States: Major NWS and a permanent UNSC member. The US sets much of the global tone on enforcement and verification.

Russia: Russia has the largest nuclear arsenal and an UNSC permanent member. In its recent treaty pullbacks the stability of global arms control norms has been affected and can also weaken multilateral treaty credibility.

North Korea (DPRK): It is the only state to have conducted nuclear tests in the 21st century while outside the NPT as well as directly challenging UN authority.

Iran: Iran has been a long-running focal point of proliferation concerns, especially during recent conflicts.

South Africa: South Africa has a unique precedent of voluntary disarmament providing humanitarian and moral perspective in negotiations. They are often used to pressure NWS on Article VI obligations.

Japan: Japan bridges disarmament advocacy and security reliance on nuclear deterrence. It constantly pushes disarmament and peaceful uses of nuclear technology.

Topic B: Bibliography

- UN: <https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/disarmament>
- <https://www.un.org/en/observances/nuclear-weapons-elimination-day>
- NPT: <https://disarmament.unoda.org/wmd/nuclear/npt/>
- IAEA: <https://www.iaea.org/>
- <https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/focus/iran/iaea-and-iran-iaea-board-reports>
- JCPOA: <https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/nuclear-agreement>
- CTBT: <https://www.ctbto.org/our-mission/the-treaty>
- TPNW: <https://disarmament.unoda.org/wmd/nuclear/tpnw/>
- NFWZs: <https://www.un.org/nwzfz/content/overview-nuclear-weapon-free-zones>
- UNSCR 1718:
<https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/sanctions/1718>
- Bilateral arms support (USA-Russia):
<https://www.state.gov/bureau-of-arms-control-deterrence-and-stability/releases>
- [https://unidir.org/files/2023-03/UNIDIR_past future bilateral nuclear arms control.pdf](https://unidir.org/files/2023-03/UNIDIR_past_future_bilateral_nuclear_arms_control.pdf)

Other links used:

- <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/putin-russia-suspends-participation-last-remaining-nuclear-treaty-with-us-2023-02-21>
- <https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/un/disarmament/index.html>
- <https://www.jurist.org/news/2025/07/iran-president-signs-law-suspending-cooperation-with-international-atomic-energy-agency/>
- <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/797839?v=pdf>
- <https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/atomic-energy>