

LIMUN

LICEO'S MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Security Council



Topic B: "Global disarmament agenda in terms of current Weapons of Mass Destruction."

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I. COMMITTEE BACKGROUND

The security council is one of the six main organs of the United Nations that were established by The United Nations Charter. Its first session was held on 17 January 1946 at Church House, Westminster, London. Since then, the Security Council has taken permanent residence at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. This council has the main responsibility of maintaining international peace and security whenever peace is threatened. When threats to peace occur, the Council's first action is to try to reach an agreement in a peaceful manner. This manner may include setting principles, making investigations, creating missions, bringing hostilities to an end, and opting for enforcement measures that will minimize the impact on set countries.

I. HISTORY OF THE TOPIC

A. Introduction to the Topic

There are many reasons why this is important, and many reasons why this needs to be solved. Today more than ever, technological and scientific achievements have allowed governments to produce and create mass-destruction weapons. Without a doubt, technology and science have been outstanding in the last 2 centuries, and as a population, we should acknowledge the good things these advances have brought to our hands. Normally, someone would talk about every good aspect of these new achievements, however, it is critical to address every problem created by them.

Due to the tensions between countries in the past decades, the fabrication of these has increased at incredible rates. Countries see this as a way of defending themselves against any threat to their power, labeling the weapons as a “just in case” against governments, terrorists or another group of people whose’s intentions are not positive.

As important as it is to understand why countries feel the need to use weapons, we need to fully comprehend what a weapon of mass destruction is. A weapon of mass destruction is “a nuclear, radiological, chemical, biological, or another device that is intended to harm a large number of people.” (Homeland Security, “Weapons of Mass Destruction”). The militarization of countries is a very indispensable factor to measure. Countries have dedicated the last decades to improving their weapons more and more, and as time goes by, this only gets worse. Governments inject astonishing amounts of capital into their militaries. This only causes economic instability and peace between countries to be much more difficult to achieve.

It is of great importance to note that not only are the country's militaries producing these weapons, but they are also getting rid of them. If it were not concerning enough, terrorist groups are getting their hands on very dangerous mass destruction weapons. This is because countries have very poor security systems. Not only are these terrorist groups receiving these powerful technological weapons, but they are also making them. With this, insecurity has increased tremendously over the last years and is foreseen to continue to.

We can say that the biggest threat out of the destructive weapons are nuclear, nevertheless, it is crucial to understand radiological, chemical and biological weapons. This topic has a lot more depth than what we get by just generalizing information, so we must try and gather all of the information to establish a true solution.

B. Evolution of the Topic

Throughout history, the way mankind thinks has evolved. Millions of years ago, wars and battles were fought using sticks and rocks. Hundreds of years later they evolved into making weapons like the bow and arrow, clubs, axes, spears, etc... As civilizations fell and succeeded the material used for making tools and weapons evolved, materials such as rocks or stocks were not used anymore. Weapons became more effective being made out of metals, and precious rocks. As materials changed, human intelligence also invented new processes to fabricate these. Thousands of years and human losses later, wars and battles are still a thing and weapons are made out of different materials and new fabrication methods.

Taking into consideration that in the past there were weapons similar to today's massive destruction weapons, we can not clearly say when was the first moment in which something like this was used. Nevertheless, we can state, when these weapons started to become a menace to the masses. It is evident that there is tension between nations increases as weapons do. Countries are making peace treaties but not honoring their agreements and if they are, they are preparing for when a catastrophe happens and tension becomes violence.

C. Relevant Events

Humanity saw the first mass destruction weapon at use in World War I. German scientists had developed a gas called "mustard gas". This mortal weapon made its victims blind and provoked irritation with anything that made contact with it. Victims would suffer skin irritation, lung blisters, and much more. This was used in grenades and bombs against the oppositions. The Germans used it against the British army in Ypres , July 1917.

Talking about nuclear weapons, the Germans started to investigate nuclear science, alerted by the progress, the US started "The Manhattan Project". The Manhattan Project was a secret project to produce the first atomic bomb to be used in WW2. After the US obtained a final result, WW2 ended. The US would proceed to use it against Japan in 1945 (Hiroshima and Nagasaki). As a consequence, Japan had a very hard time solving every problem, and if it were not enough, more than 120,000 people died. It is until this day that no other country has used a nuclear weapon against another, nevertheless, governments have produced and stored thousands of nuclear weapons ready to be used at any moment.

The Cold War was one of the deciding factors for countries to start a nuclear weapons arsenal. Countries considered it necessary to have a

“defense” program in case tension between the United States and Russia became a worldwide catastrophe.

III. CURRENT ISSUES

A. Panorama

The main discussion point is security. The definition of security needs to be defined properly. Countries see security as having deadly weapons ready for an event. Real security is obtained through peace and healthy relationships between countries. Currently, the world lacks this and governments do not become concerned. Politicians and world leaders are more concerned with not having sufficient nuclear weapons than not having real security. An agenda must be put into place.

A. Points of View

Nine countries currently possess nuclear weapons. The United States, Russia, France, China, the United Kingdom, Pakistan, India, Israel, and North Korea. The total number of nuclear weapons is over 13,000. Countries are not only increasing their arsenals in capacity, but in capability too.

The United States

The United States arsenal has approximately 5,500 nuclear weapons. 1,744 of which are ready to be used. The weapons are stored in submarines and 80-foot-deep missile silos in five of the great plain states. Also, there is a small amount in military bases, and 100 in European air bases. A very dangerous characteristic is that half of these weapons can be deployed within a 10-minute frame.

Russia

Russia is the country with more nuclear weapons in arsenal, with an astonishing 6,000 warheads. 1600 of those are deployed. Russia is open to

reducing its arsenal just if the US missile defenses are also legally constrained.

China

China started to fabricate nuclear weapons during the Cold War. They possess an arsenal of 350 warheads, 100 of which are assigned to reach the United States. China does not have its missiles attached to the warheads during peacetime. China is concerned about the investments the United States are making towards nuclear power. And because of this, China looks forward to expanding its nuclear power.

The United Kingdom

The UK has approximately 120 available nuclear weapons. They are stored in submarines and ready to be used. The United Kingdom has purchased many nuclear arsenal from the United States. The United Kingdom is looking to expand its arsenal to 260 warheads.

France

France has an estimated 300 deployed nuclear weapons. The vast majority are located in submarines. France has a strong stand on “defense only use”, nevertheless do not discard the option of being the first to use nuclear weapons in extreme defense circumstances.

North Korea

After the Cold War, North Korea was desperate for security and diplomatic leverage, therefore, Its leaders accelerated their nuclear program. The United States has attempted to limit North Korea’s arsenal, and has ended up in broken promises. North Korea has approximately 40 nuclear warheads, and it is said that it has the capability of producing 7 to 10 per year.

India

India has possession over 150 nuclear weapons and counting. The reason behind India's nuclear program is the relation with Pakistan, however, India is also concerned with the increasing tension with China.

Pakistan

Pakistan has an estimated 150 nuclear weapons and is producing more. Pakistan's production of nuclear weapons is specifically based on India's actions.

Israel

Israel has not accepted to have any nuclear weapons, nonetheless, it is well known that they own 100 nuclear warheads. This "secret" nuclear program makes nearby countries interested in investing into new nuclear technologies.

I. UN & EXTERNAL ACTIONS

A. UN actions

The United Nations always seeks what is best for everyone. That is why the UN has been concerned for many years about weapons of mass destruction. A big move against nuclear weapons the United Nations made was "the Treaty of the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) This includes a set of prohibitions in nuclear activities. There are 91 signatories to this day, and the UN seeks to encourage countries to keep joining. The treaty of "Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)" encourages countries to not promote these activities. The treaty was signed in 1968, and was extended in May 1995 for an indefinite period of time. A total 191 states have joined.

There is also the "Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)" this convention effectively prohibits the development, production, acquisition, transfer, stockpiling, and use of biological and toxin weapons. It was the first

multilateral disarmament treaty banning an entire category of weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

B. External actions

Australia has the “Chemicals Weapons (Prohibition) Act of 1994” This bans activities connected to the development, production, and use of chemical weapons, including assisting anyone else engaged in these activities, whether intentionally or not. Such offenses are punishable by life imprisonment.

The “Acronym Institute for Disarmament” is an NGO located in the United Kingdom dedicated to humanitarian disarmament and diplomacy, international treaties and multilateral agreements, and sustainable security-building. This NGO has worked with the United Nations and looks forward to the disarmament of weapons of mass destruction across the globe.

II. CONCLUSION

Countries are seeking power more than security. It is a fact that nations have a false image of the world, and peace treaties are not respected. The technology behind these weapons is more advanced than we could ever imagine. The real danger behind such weapons is more than the positive part governments say there is. Peace needs to be present in international relationships. “I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones”. (- Albert Einstein). A disarmament agenda must be addressed now to prevent mass destruction.

III. IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

- Should countries have the right to possess these types of weapons?
- Is the concept of “security” well defined?

- Are countries revealing real data about their possession of these weapons?
- How can we convince countries to stop the production of these weapons?

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