United Nations Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC)

Chair: Joaquin Fabara

Vice Chair: Jack Waddell

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Letter from the Chair

Dear Honorable Delegates,

Welcome to LYMUN XI! I'm Joaquin Fabara and I am excited to be chairing the United Nations Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC). I can't wait to finally get everyone in committee to have the best Model UN experience ever.

This will now be my second year in Model UN at Lyons Township. I'm very passionate about loudly proclaiming my opinions, so I'm also in debate. I play water polo and I am also on the swim team at LTHS. Outside sports, I play video games and lay on my bed and rot my brain out watching insta reels.

In a best delegate, I look for someone who is passionate and active in committee. You need to not only know your country's position inside and out, but also stay committed and devoted to that position throughout the whole committee.

More than anything however, I want a respectful and efficient committee. If I'm gonna keep things real, MUN can get kind of boring after 5-6 hours of it. So, I want to take a much more laid back and fun approach to chairing so the committee can be a bit more interesting. However, if you or any other person in the committee is not being respectful or not being a team player or just in general being a not cool person, I'm going to have to run this committee like a dictator. We've all had committees like that, so it's not going to be fun for you or me if it comes to it.

Remember that you have to submit one position paper per topic in order to qualify for awards. You can either email them to me or turn in paper copies the morning of the conference. So, with that stuff out of the way, I'm hyped to see y'all at LYMUN!

Joaquin Fabara

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Members in Committee

Argentina c
Australia
Bangladesh
Belize
Brazil
Canada
China
Colombia
Cuba
Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)
El Salvador
France
Guatemala
India
Indonesia
Iran
Iraq
Italy
Japan
Kenya

Committee Background

The Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC) is one of the six principal committees of the United Nations General Assembly, established in 1959. DISEC was created in response to the growing global concerns about armaments and security during the Cold War era. Its core mission is to address issues related to disarmament, arms control, and international security to promote global peace and stability.

DISEC's broad mandate includes reducing and eliminating weapons of mass destruction, such as nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, and supporting treaties like the NPT for arms control and non-proliferation. It addresses traditional security issues, including conventional arms control and military conflicts, aiming to prevent conflicts and ensure global stability through peaceful means. Additionally, DISEC tackles emerging threats like cyber warfare, terrorism, and the proliferation of advanced military technologies, requiring innovative solutions and international cooperation to effectively manage these risks.



DISEC operates by holding annual sessions where member states come together to review and debate security issues. During these sessions, they negotiate resolutions and recommendations, which are then submitted to the General Assembly for consideration. This process enables member states to collaborate on finding solutions to global security challenges and advancing collective agreements on disarmament.

The committee has been instrumental in facilitating several key international agreements and treaties. For instance, DISEC has played a role in shaping arms control agreements and enhancing global cooperation on disarmament issues. However, DISEC faces ongoing

challenges, including geopolitical tensions, divergent national interests, and the complexities of emerging security threats.

Despite these challenges, DISEC remains a crucial platform for fostering international dialogue and cooperation on disarmament and security matters. It provides a forum for countries to address their concerns, negotiate agreements, and work towards a more secure and peaceful world. Through its efforts, DISEC contributes significantly to the broader goals of the United Nations in promoting global stability and preventing conflicts.

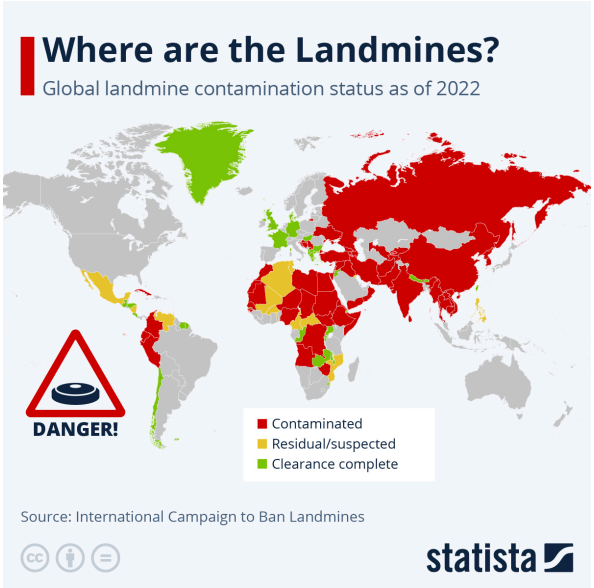
Topic A - Conventional weapons disarmament

Topic Background:

While conventional weapons, mainly firearms, have been around for centuries, they still cause prevalent debates in many nations today. Ever since the creation of gunpowder in the late Tang dynasty, its rampant use has taken the lives of millions. As gun violence is on the rise in many countries around the world, the need for effective gun control looms large. According to Amnesty International, more than 600 people worldwide die every day as a result of gun violence. While causes are varied- mental health, gang activity, domestic violence, suicide, armed conflict, etc- the resulting effect is the same: individuals die. People that would otherwise contribute to the future and well-being of a nation are reduced to a statistic.



Within United Nations member countries, various types of conventional weapons continue to pose severe challenges, exacerbating conflicts and inflicting lasting harm on civilian populations. Among the most problematic are landmines and unexploded ordnance, remnants of past conflicts that remain buried in the ground and can detonate unexpectedly often during peacetime, causing casualties and impeding development. These devices not only cause immediate injuries but also pose long-term risks by rendering large areas uninhabitable and obstructing agricultural and infrastructural development. Another significant issue arises from



cluster munitions, which disperse smaller bomblets over wide areas, many of which fail to explode on impact and later pose severe risks to civilians, particularly children, who may come into contact with these remnants. Additionally, the use of incendiary weapons, which cause widespread fires and severe burns, has raised concerns due to their indiscriminate nature and their tendency to cause disproportionate harm to non-combatants and damage to infrastructure. The proliferation of small arms and light weapons, such as rifles and handguns, also exacerbates violence in many regions, fueling conflicts, and contributing to high rates of armed violence and crime. These weapons, though less conspicuous than others, are often involved in the destabilization of communities, undermining efforts for peace and security. The ongoing challenges associated with these weapons underscore the need for robust international cooperation and comprehensive disarmament efforts to address their impact and mitigate their threats to global stability and humanitarian conditions. It is issues with these kinds of conventional weapons that this committee works to solve.

Current Issues:

Gun violence is a pressing global issue that affects countless communities and lives. The proliferation of firearms and their misuse contribute to escalating rates of violence, from mass shootings to daily incidents of gun-related crimes. In many areas, the presence of illegal firearms

exacerbates existing violence and insecurity, creating a cycle of fear and instability. Even in regions with stringent gun control laws, challenges remain as illegal arms often find their way into communities. Conflict zones are particularly vulnerable, where the presence of weapons intensifies the suffering of civilians and complicates humanitarian efforts. Addressing gun violence requires a multifaceted approach, including stricter regulations, effective law enforcement, and comprehensive support systems. Collaboration between nations and organizations is essential to tackle this issue on a global scale. Efforts must focus on reducing the availability of illegal firearms and implementing community-based interventions to break the cycle of violence.

Previous Solutions:

In the past, efforts for gun control by DISEC have seen quite fruitful results. One of the biggest disarmament programs that DISEC has orchestrated was the Burundi DDRR program. The Burundi DDRR (Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration, and Repatriation) program aimed to foster peace and stability by addressing the aftermath of conflict. It focused on disarming former combatants and militias, ensuring that their weapons were safely collected and disposed of. Following disarmament, the program supported the formal discharge of fighters and assisted in their transition to civilian life through



various reintegration efforts, such as vocational training and psychological support. The program helped 33,500 ex-soldiers lay down their weapons and transition into careers of peace after the country's civil war. Households impacted by the DDRR program had an increase of 34% in their consumption rates, meaning these households had a 34% increase in disposable income. While not all countries will have the perfect conditions for a Burundi style success, the DDRR program still serves as a shining example of how DISEC has helped remedy this issue in the past.

Another way that DISEC has helped remedy the plague of conventional weaponry is with the 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons, commonly referred to as the CCW, which represents a significant milestone in international humanitarian law, addressing the need to mitigate the suffering inflicted by certain types of conventional weapons during armed conflicts. This convention emerged from growing international concern over the devastating impact of weaponry such as landmines and booby traps, which often inflicted disproportionate harm on civilians and non-combatants. The



convention aimed to establish legal standards for the use of these weapons, with a particular focus on those causing excessive injury or suffering, and to promote the protection of civilian populations during conflicts. The CCW consists of a framework convention complemented by several protocols, each targeting specific categories of weaponry. For example, Protocol II, which was revised in 1996, deals with landmines, booby traps, and other devices, imposing stringent requirements for their use and laying out measures to protect civilians. Over the years, the CCW has been instrumental in

shaping national policies and contributing to international discourse on humanitarian law. Its outcomes include a heightened awareness of the humanitarian impact of certain weapons and a concerted effort among member states to minimize civilian harm. The convention has facilitated discussions and negotiations on emerging weapons technologies and continues to evolve, adapting to new challenges in warfare while striving to uphold the principles of humanity and the protection of civilian life.

Questions to Consider:

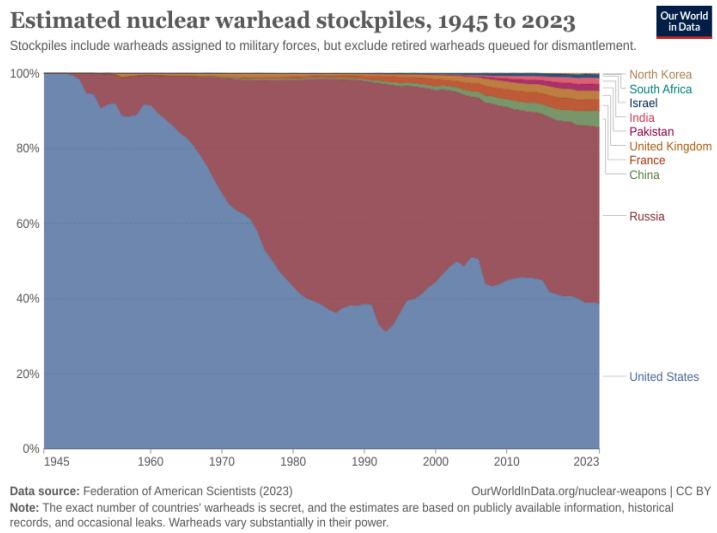
1. Has your country experienced either prolonged or sharp spikes of gun violence in recent years?
2. Are there any types of illegal activities (i.e gangs, organized crime, trafficking, etc) that would artificially increase firearm presence in your country? How large of a threat are these activities in your country?
3. Have prior gun control methods worked in the past in your country?
4. How large is the firearm industry in your country: legal and illegal? How many firearms are in your country?
5. Besides firearms, does your country have a current or past issue with other types of conventional weapons like artillery or anti-personnel landmines?
6. How prevalent have these other types of conventional weapons been? Has your country dealt with the situation effectively?

Topic B - Denuclearization

Topic Background:

Nuclear weapons have posed an extreme and imminent threat ever since their first implementation during the end of World War II. These weapons of mass destruction have been stockpiled for decades, fueling the flames of global strife into the 21st century. Even though treaties and agreements have been attempted in the past to reduce the number of these devices, the Stockholm National Research Institute recorded that every year since their creation, nuclear arms stockpiles worldwide have increased every year. The armageddon-esque threat that these warheads emanate serves as a reminder that these weapons are not just a relic of the past, but potent threats of the present.

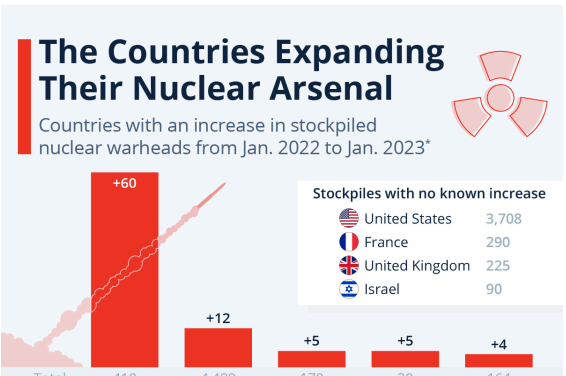
Nuclear stockpiles pose a profound threat to international safety and stability, presenting a perilous challenge for United Nations member states due to the sheer destructive power and potential for catastrophic consequences they hold. The existence of large arsenals of nuclear weapons, maintained by several nations, creates a constant risk of escalation and conflict, where even a minor misunderstanding or accidental launch could trigger devastating consequences. The sheer scale of destruction possible from a single nuclear detonation could obliterate entire cities, resulting in massive loss of life, long-term environmental damage, and severe health repercussions from radiation exposure. Moreover, the potential for nuclear weapons to fall



into the hands of rogue states or non-state actors adds another layer of risk, as these entities might not adhere to established protocols or show restraint, increasing the likelihood of their use. The persistent threat of nuclear proliferation, where more countries seek to develop or acquire these weapons, exacerbates global tensions and undermines collective security efforts. The complex and precarious nature of nuclear deterrence further complicates international relations, with the possibility of a nuclear arms race driving nations to expand their arsenals, creating an environment of mutual suspicion and instability. The presence of nuclear weapons thus poses an overarching threat to global safety, demanding vigilant diplomacy, rigorous arms control agreements, and international cooperation to mitigate the risks associated with their existence and potential use.

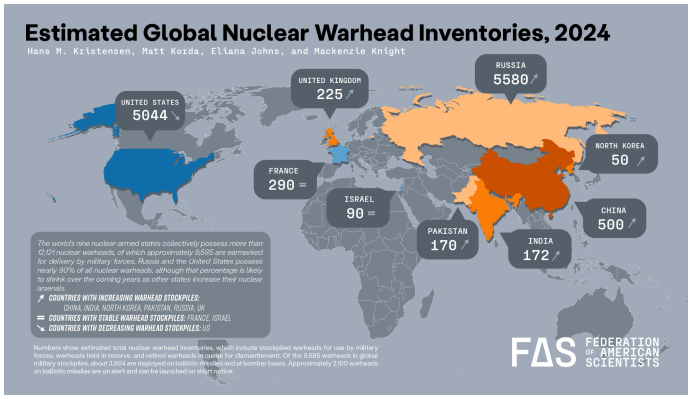
Current Issues:

Nuclear arms storage and denuclearization face significant challenges as geopolitical tensions persist and technology advances. Many countries, including nuclear-armed states, grapple with aging infrastructure, making the safe and secure storage of nuclear weapons increasingly difficult. The threat of accidental launches or theft of these weapons remains a serious concern, exacerbated by the potential for cyberattacks on critical systems. Additionally, ongoing political instability and strained international relations hinder progress toward effective denuclearization agreements. While treaties like the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) aim to curb the spread of nuclear weapons, compliance and enforcement are inconsistent among nations. Efforts to modernize and reduce arsenals are often slowed by competing national interests and mistrust. The rise of new nuclear powers and the development of advanced delivery systems add



complexity to arms control efforts. Furthermore, the lack of transparency and verification mechanisms can undermine the credibility of disarmament initiatives. Addressing these issues requires robust international cooperation and renewed commitment to non-proliferation principles. Without significant progress, the risks associated with nuclear arms storage and denuclearization will continue to pose a grave threat to global security.

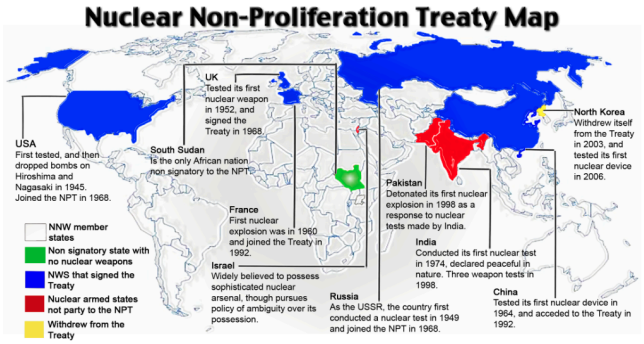
The current issue of growing nuclear stockpiles presents an escalating threat to the safety and security of United Nations member countries, driven by the increasing accumulation and modernization of nuclear arsenals by several states. This trend not only heightens the risk of catastrophic conflict but also exacerbates global instability by reinforcing the potential for a new arms race. As nations expand and upgrade their nuclear capabilities, they not only increase the likelihood of accidental or unauthorized launches but also perpetuate a cycle of fear and suspicion among other states. The enhancement of nuclear weapons technology, including the development of more precise and powerful warheads and delivery systems, raises the stakes of potential conflicts and complicates arms control efforts. This situation is further aggravated by the lack of effective global disarmament initiatives, which has allowed existing nuclear powers to maintain and even grow their arsenals, while newer states and potentially unstable regimes seek to join the nuclear club. The growing disparity in nuclear capabilities between nations fosters a sense of insecurity and competition, making diplomatic resolutions more difficult to achieve and heightening the risk of miscalculations or deliberate provocations. Consequently, the proliferation and expansion of



nuclear stockpiles endanger international peace and security, underscoring the urgent need for renewed commitment to disarmament and robust diplomatic engagement to manage and mitigate these threats effectively.

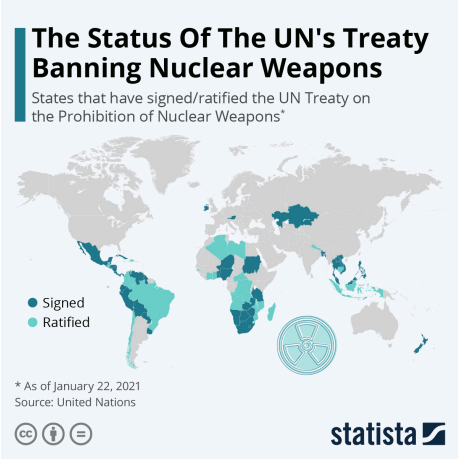
Previous Solutions:

While denuclearization has been attempted numerous times in the past, the earliest was the NPT. The 1968 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) marked a pivotal moment in the global effort to address the issue of nuclear stockpiles, aiming to curb the spread of nuclear weapons and promote disarmament. By establishing a framework for preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons, the NPT sought to limit the number of states possessing such weapons and reduce the likelihood of nuclear conflict. It created a system in which nuclear-armed states, defined as those who had tested nuclear weapons before the treaty's adoption, committed to pursuing nuclear disarmament and ultimately reducing their arsenals, while non-nuclear-weapon states agreed not to develop or acquire nuclear weapons. This mutual agreement fostered an international norm against nuclear proliferation and facilitated dialogue among member countries, laying the groundwork for subsequent arms control agreements and verification measures. The NPT's establishment of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as a monitoring body further helped by providing a framework for inspections and ensuring compliance with non-proliferation commitments. Over the decades, the treaty has played a crucial role in preventing the spread of nuclear weapons to



additional states, although challenges remain, particularly concerning states that have pursued nuclear capabilities outside the NPT framework. Despite its limitations, the NPT has significantly contributed to managing and reducing global nuclear stockpiles, promoting an international consensus on the importance of non-proliferation, and encouraging ongoing efforts towards nuclear disarmament and arms control. The NPT was a crucial first step in controlling the widespread blight of nuclear armaments.

While the NPT was a solution in the past, the more recent TPNW shows increasing promise in solving the nuclear stockpile issue. The 2017 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) represents a groundbreaking development in the global effort to address the issue of nuclear stockpiles, embodying a decisive and unequivocal stance against the existence of nuclear arms. This treaty, adopted by a significant majority of United Nations member states, aims to create a comprehensive legal framework that explicitly bans the development, testing, production, acquisition, stockpiling, and use of nuclear weapons. By providing a clear and categorical prohibition, the TPNW seeks to stigmatize nuclear weapons and reinforce the global consensus that such arms pose unacceptable risks to humanity. It builds upon previous arms control agreements by not only addressing the prohibition of nuclear weapons but also emphasizing the humanitarian impact of their use and the urgent need for their complete elimination. The treaty includes provisions for assisting survivors of nuclear detonations and cleaning up affected environments, reflecting a deep commitment to addressing the long-term consequences of nuclear testing and use. Although the TPNW has yet to be adopted by nuclear-armed states or those under nuclear



umbrellas, its adoption marks a significant shift towards the broader goal of nuclear disarmament by bolstering the international normative framework and generating momentum for future disarmament efforts. The TPNW has reinvigorated discussions on nuclear weapons and highlighted the moral and ethical imperatives for their abolition, contributing to a growing international movement that seeks to diminish and eventually eradicate nuclear stockpiles, and thereby reduce the existential threat posed by these weapons.

Questions to Consider:

1. How large of a nuclear stockpile does your country have? Is your country on its way to developing nuclear weapon technology?
2. Has your country tried to denuclearize in the past?
3. How much has your country spent on developing a nuclear arms program?
4. Has your country pledged to not develop nuclear weapons?
5. How threatened does your country feel from nuclear weapons? Are there nations near yours that pose a nuclear threat?

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