

## **Centennial MiniMUN Conference**

### **International Atomic Energy Agency Committee**

Hello Delegates,

My name is Avi Frank and I am the co-chair of the International Atomic Energy Agency Committee at MiniMUN this year! I am a Senior at Centennial and have been involved with our Model UN team since my freshman year. Since my first conference Model UN quickly became one of my favorite activities, and I hope I can help all of you have a similar experience this year at MiniMUN. I am really looking forward to hearing creative ideas and dynamic solutions. Outside of Model UN I am involved with Active Minds and am the president of Centennial's National Honor Society. Riley and I have created this background guide to give you an introduction to the issue, however we highly encourage you to complete lots of research outside of this guide so you can successfully participate in some substantiated debate.

Hello Delegates,

My name is Riley King and I am the co-chair of the International Atomic Energy Agency Committee at Centennial MiniMun 2024! I have been participating in Model UN for 3 years and I am very much looking forward to committee with you all! My favorite thing about Model UN is seeing different opinions and ideas discussed passionately in a skillful way. Model UN has been a great way for me to make connections, grow my knowledge of different countries and cultures, and develop problem solving skills. My favorite Model UN memory was at UGAMUNC last year, when I got to stay overnight in Athens with my friends and get Canes. I am looking forward to a great committee with you all, and seeing your outstanding work.

The topic of the International Atomic Energy Agency Committee at MiniMun this year is Nuclear Non-Proliferation. Nuclear Non-proliferation is a crucial topic due to the potential catastrophic consequences of nuclear weapons, including mass destruction and loss of human lives. International efforts towards nuclear disarmament aim to prevent the spread of these weapons, reduce the risk of nuclear conflict, and promote global security and stability. This topic is very complex and member states will have different approaches and solutions based on their economic situation and international relations. Best of luck with your research we both look forward to some productive debate and creative resolutions at MiniMun 2023!

Good Luck and Go Knights!

Sincerely,

Avi Frank ([aviisaacfrank@gmail.com](mailto:aviisaacfrank@gmail.com))

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## **Committee Introduction**

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is an independent international organization established in 1957 under the United Nations. Its primary functions include promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy, preventing the spread of nuclear weapons, and fostering international cooperation in nuclear-related matters. The IAEA has the authority to verify and ensure the compliance of its member states with their obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and other relevant agreements. It conducts inspections, safeguards, and provides technical assistance to facilitate the safe and secure use of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. The IAEA's powers include the ability to inspect nuclear facilities, monitor nuclear activities, and verify the information provided by member states. It plays a crucial role in preventing the diversion of nuclear materials for non-peaceful purposes and promoting transparency in nuclear programs. The agency also contributes to nuclear safety by establishing international standards, providing expertise, and assisting in emergency preparedness and response.

The overarching goals of the IAEA encompass advancing the peaceful applications of nuclear energy, ensuring nuclear non-proliferation, and contributing to global efforts in nuclear security. Through its comprehensive approach, the IAEA aims to balance the benefits and risks associated with nuclear technology while promoting international collaboration for the peaceful and responsible use of nuclear energy.

## **Nuclear Non-Proliferation**

### **Vocabulary**

Nuclear Weapons- A nuclear weapon is an explosive device whose destructive force results from either nuclear fission chain reactions or combined nuclear fission and fusion reactions.

Proliferation- a rapid growth or increase in numbers

Nuclear Security- Nuclear security deals with the prevention and detection of, and response to, theft, sabotage, unauthorized access, illegal transfer or other malicious acts involving nuclear material, other radioactive substances or their associated facilities.

### **Background and History**

The history of nuclear weapons<sup>1</sup> is marked by significant milestones, beginning with the development of the first atomic bombs during World War II. The Manhattan Project<sup>2</sup>, a secret research program led by the United States, resulted in the successful testing and subsequent use of nuclear weapons on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. This event

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<sup>1</sup>[ourworldindata.org/nuclear-weapons#:~:text=Nuclear%20weapons%20technology%20was%20developed,important%20issue%20in%20international%20relations](http://ourworldindata.org/nuclear-weapons#:~:text=Nuclear%20weapons%20technology%20was%20developed,important%20issue%20in%20international%20relations)

<sup>2</sup><https://www.nps.gov/mapr/learn/manhattan-project.htm#:~:text=The%20Manhattan%20Project%20was%20an,atomic%20weapons%20before%20Nazi%20Germany>.

ushered in the nuclear age and prompted global awareness of the devastating power of such weapons. It was the first and only use of nuclear weapons carried out in warfare.

During the Cold War, the United States and the Soviet Union engaged in a nuclear arms race, accumulating vast arsenals of nuclear weapons. The Cuban Missile Crisis<sup>3</sup> in 1962 brought the world to the brink of nuclear conflict. Subsequent arms control agreements, including the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT<sup>4</sup>) and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), aimed to curb the spread of nuclear weapons and reduce global stockpiles. Despite disarmament efforts, nuclear weapons continue to shape geopolitics and international security in the contemporary era.

## **Issues and Discourse**

Nuclear proliferation has far-reaching international implications, with consequences that span geopolitical, security, environmental, and humanitarian dimensions. One of the primary concerns is the potential for nuclear weapons to fall into the hands of non-state actors or rogue nations, leading to an increased risk of nuclear conflict. The international community recognizes the urgent need to curb the spread of nuclear weapons to maintain global security.

Geopolitically, nuclear proliferation can exacerbate regional tensions and trigger arms races, as neighboring states may feel compelled to acquire nuclear capabilities in response to perceived threats. For instance, the nuclear arms race between India and Pakistan<sup>5</sup> has escalated regional instability, with both countries possessing nuclear arsenals and engaging in periodic conflicts. The situation on the Korean Peninsula is another example, where North Korea's<sup>6</sup> nuclear ambitions have heightened tensions in East Asia and led to international sanctions.

The environmental consequences of nuclear proliferation are significant, particularly in the event of nuclear warfare. A large-scale nuclear conflict could result in catastrophic environmental damage, including nuclear winter<sup>7</sup>—a scenario where widespread fires from nuclear explosions inject massive amounts of soot into the atmosphere, blocking sunlight and causing a drastic drop in temperatures. This could lead to agricultural collapse, food shortages, and global famine. The potential environmental devastation underscores the need for concerted international efforts to prevent nuclear proliferation.

## **International Action**

Nuclear non-proliferation is a cornerstone of international efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and their technology. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT<sup>8</sup>), established in 1968, is a landmark international treaty aimed at achieving three main

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<sup>3</sup><https://history.state.gov/milestones/1961-1968/cuban-missile-crisis#:~:text=The%20Cuban%20Missile%20Crisis%20of,came%20closest%20to%20nuclear%20conflict.>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov/library/exhibits/salt/salt.asp>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-64396138>

<sup>6</sup> <https://cisac.fsi.stanford.edu/content/cisac-north-korea>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.atomicarchive.com/science/effects/nuclear-winter.html>

<sup>8</sup> [disarmament.unoda.org/wmd/nuclear/npt/](https://disarmament.unoda.org/wmd/nuclear/npt/)

objectives: preventing the spread of nuclear weapons and nuclear weapon technology (non-proliferation), promoting peaceful uses of nuclear energy (cooperation), and working towards nuclear disarmament. The NPT recognizes five nuclear-armed states, namely the United States, Russia, China, France, and the United Kingdom, as nuclear-weapon states, while other signatories commit to not acquiring nuclear weapons. Non-nuclear-weapon states, in return, are granted access to peaceful nuclear technology and assistance for their development.

Key components of nuclear non-proliferation efforts include the IAEA safeguards system, which involves inspections and verification to ensure that nuclear materials are used exclusively for peaceful purposes. The NPT has been critical in preventing the widespread proliferation of nuclear weapons, although challenges persist, particularly concerning states that pursue nuclear weapons capabilities in violation of the treaty. The international community continues to address nuclear non-proliferation through diplomatic means, arms control agreements, and initiatives aimed at promoting disarmament. Efforts to strengthen the NPT, address compliance issues, and foster international cooperation in nuclear security are ongoing. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT<sup>9</sup>) is another instrument complementing non-proliferation efforts by prohibiting all nuclear explosions for both civilian and military purposes.

Nuclear non-proliferation is a global priority, as reflected in the NPT and related agreements. The pursuit of peaceful uses of nuclear energy while preventing the spread of nuclear weapons remains a delicate and complex balance that requires sustained international cooperation and diplomatic engagement.

### **Questions to Consider**

1. How can the international community strengthen non-proliferation efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons to additional states?
2. What measures can be implemented to encourage states to join or comply with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)?
3. What diplomatic approaches can be employed to resolve disputes between nuclear-armed states?
4. How can the peaceful uses of nuclear energy be promoted while ensuring safeguards against the development of nuclear weapons?
5. What does your country's nuclear arsenal look like?
6. What regulatory frameworks could be established to address new developments in nuclear weapons technology?

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<sup>9</sup><https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/test-ban-treaty-at-a-glance#:~:text=The%20Comprehensive%20Test%20Ban%20Treaty,nations%20and%20ratified%20by%20177.>