

CENMUN 2023



DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE

AGENDA: STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS FOR
NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

CHAIR:
VICE CHAIR:

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Introduction to DISEC committee

General Assembly 1, or the Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC), was created under Chapter IV of the United Nations Charter, and it remains one of the main GA committees. As the First Committee of the General Assembly, DISEC deals with many issues resulting from heightened tensions, such as nuclear warfare, disarmament, and international conflict. These conflicts destroy peace and create instability in the world. DISEC was at first a political committee but was later adapted to be a peacetime and disarmament committee.

Today, the First Committee on Disarmament and International Security provides a forum for states to discuss their differing perspectives on disarmament matters and work together to reach compromises or pass resolutions that provide tools to better understand and approach disarmament and international security concerns. The committee affords states the opportunity to reach a consensus on issues. It aims to provide solutions so that states no longer ensure "security" for themselves by increasing the size of their arsenals but rather negotiate cooperative security arrangements that reduce weapon spending, arms production, trade, and stockpiles. DISEC also provides suggestions to the Security Council on issues that need to be discussed.

Warfare and security threats are constantly evolving along with modern technologies, and DISEC continues its goal in providing general principles of cooperation to promote international peace. Issues surrounding weaponry and warfare can be challenging, but it is important to keep international peace at the forefront of debate.

INTRODUCTION TO THE AGENDA

Nuclear weapons are one of the largest threats to international peace and security. In response to the devastating 1945 nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly adopted resolution 1 in 1946, calling for the elimination of atomic weapons. However, between 1945 and 1950, the amount of nuclear weapons in the world increased from 2 to 304, and throughout the Cold War, the number of nuclear weapons increased exponentially, reaching a peak of over 70,000 weapons in 1987. While the efforts of the international nuclear disarmament regime have decreased this figure to under 15,000 warheads in 2017, nuclear weapons continue to pose a major international security threat. The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists published their 2018 assessment of nuclear risk and noted that “the risk that nuclear weapons may be used – intentionally or because of miscalculation – grew last year around the globe.” UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres also acknowledged the growing threat posed by weapons of mass destruction, and nuclear weapons in particular. Currently, nine UN Member States possess nuclear weapons, with several other Member States having nuclear weapon-sharing capabilities. According to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) (1968), a nuclear weapon is an explosive device that releases energy as a result of nuclear fission. While nearly all UN Member States acknowledge that nuclear disarmament is fundamental for achieving international peace and security, nuclear weapon states (NWS) are reluctant to destroy their nuclear stockpiles for strategical, tactical, and security purposes. This lack of commitment and adherence to the international nuclear non-proliferation regime hampers the ability of the international community to achieve complete and total disarmament. The General Assembly First Committee is mandated with seeking solutions to achieve the complete and total disarmament of nuclear weapons.

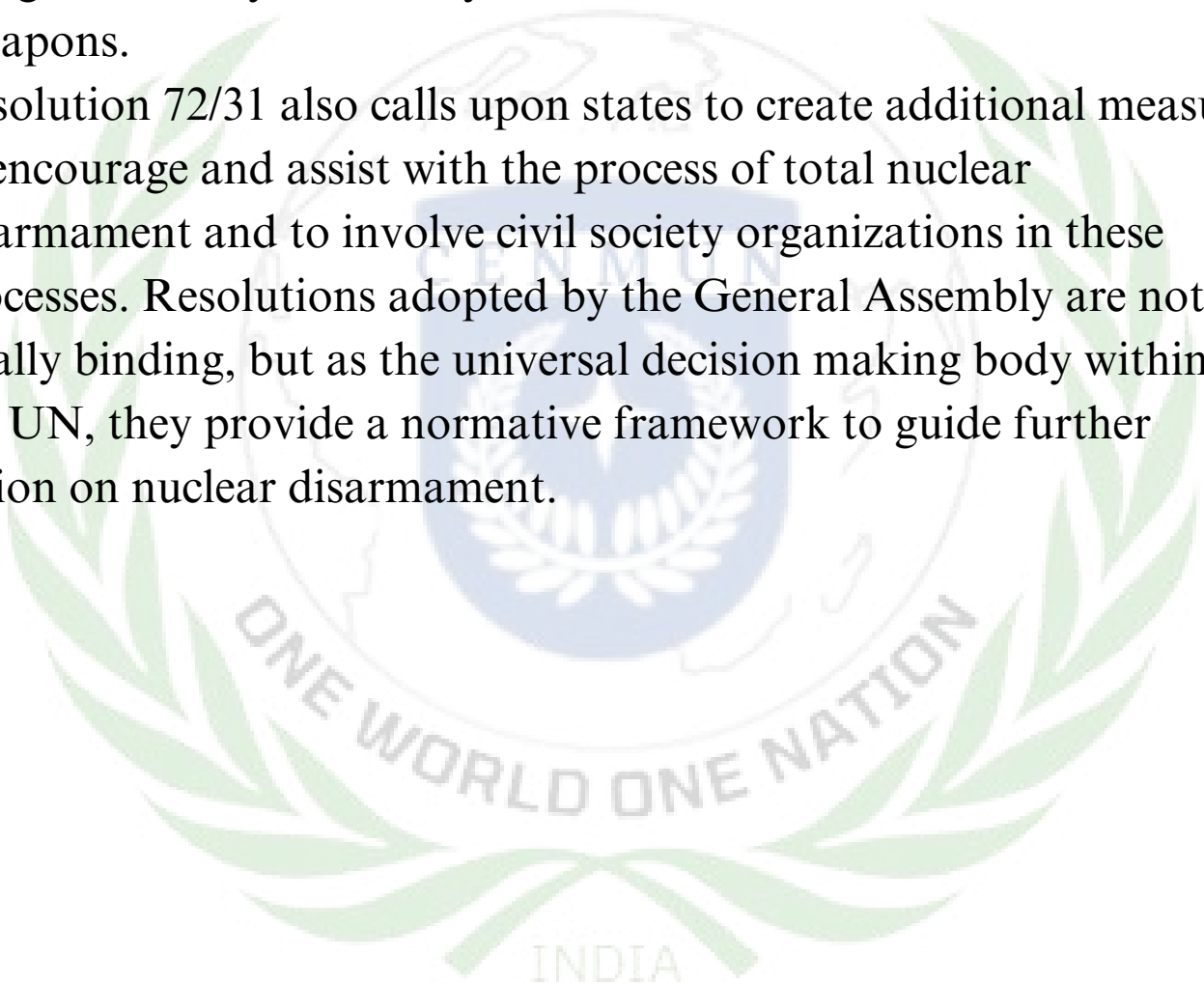
Although the First Committee has aided in making the nuclear non-proliferation regime one of the most developed aspects of international law, commitment and compliance to both legislative and regulatory frameworks is required in order to sustain the regime. The challenges of implementation have been demonstrated most recently with challenges in the denuclearization process of the Korean Peninsula. The international community has also experienced challenges in limiting the further development of nuclear weapons and pursuing good-faith measures for total disarmament, due to a lack of agreement on the way forward and the inconsistent application of existing nuclear disarmament frameworks. Progress in these areas will require additional frameworks and enforcement mechanisms, as well as the universal participation of all NWS.

Role of the International System

As the primary deliberative body responsible for international security and disarmament, the General Assembly First Committee has taken a leading role in framing and guiding progress on nuclear disarmament by providing normative frameworks on disarmament and international security matters. In addition to resolution 1 of 1946, the General Assembly has adopted dozens of resolutions on topics of nuclear disarmament, regional nuclear-weapon free zones (NWFZs), nuclear weapons and terrorism, and other topics. In 2015, the General Assembly adopted resolution 65/65, which calls for states to immediately begin negotiations on a fissile material prohibition treaty.

In 2017, the General Assembly adopted resolution 72/38; the document calls on nuclear-armed states to immediately halt improvement and development of nuclear weapons projects and to pursue disarmament measures for total nuclear disarmament. The resolution also calls for the commencement of a legally-binding nuclear disarmament agreement and for the entry into force of the CTBT. Resolution 72/31, also adopted in 2017, calls upon all states to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Resolution 72/31 also calls upon states to create additional measures to encourage and assist with the process of total nuclear disarmament and to involve civil society organizations in these processes. Resolutions adopted by the General Assembly are not legally binding, but as the universal decision making body within the UN, they provide a normative framework to guide further action on nuclear disarmament.



CONCLUSION

In conclusion, nuclear disarmament partnerships represent a critical and collaborative approach to address one of the most pressing global security challenges. These partnerships bring together states, international organizations, civil society, and other stakeholders to work collectively towards reducing and ultimately eliminating nuclear weapons. They emphasize the importance of diplomacy, transparency, and confidence-building measures to foster trust among nations and pave the way for disarmament. While significant progress has been made through initiatives like the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and existing arms control agreements, nuclear disarmament partnerships underscore the need for sustained efforts and a renewed commitment to achieving a world free of nuclear weapons. In an era where nuclear proliferation risks persist, these partnerships serve as a beacon of hope, promoting international peace, security, and the long-term survival of humanity. The Secretary-General's Agenda for Disarmament further recognises the important contribution of disarmament and arms control to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Agenda for Disarmament addresses six different Sustainable Development Goals through nine actions. Disarmament and arms control remain inextricably connected with development in a multitude of ways, providing a unique opportunity to advance both the implementation of the SDGs and the Agenda for Disarmament.

QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION MUST ANSWER

1. How should DISEC address historical deviance to past and existing agreements on nuclear disarmament?
2. Can the DISEC committee prepare for the future acquisition of nuclear weapons by non-state actors?
3. Is it possible to recreate the success of the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act on an increased international scale?
4. How can the international community enforce the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to non-signatory nations?
5. How can states balance modernization programs with their disarmament obligations?
6. What diplomatic solutions can be pursued to support the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, and what confidence-building measures should be pursued to this end?
7. How can the budget for nuclear proliferation be spent effectively

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