



United Nations
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**Disarmament & International Security
Committee**

Under Secretary General - Berf ELBİR

President Chair - Burak Ali AYGÜN

Agenda Item: Managing Nuclear Weapons

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1. Letter from the Secretary-General

Dear Delegates,

It is with great pleasure that I extend a warm welcome to each delegate that has taken a piece of their time apart to participate in AKA Model United Nations 2024. As the Secretary General of this conference I am utmost excited to witness your debates concerning global issues that plague the foundation of our world.

As you gather to begin your journey, I advise you approach this agenda with great interest and an open mind to allow for ease of communication. Over many years of evolution humanity has improved their methods of communication in many ways. As a result of that organizations such as the United Nations were able to be created. Here we gather to represent and celebrate these things by trying to help with such problems.

Aka Model United Nations is a place where you will be able to enhance your communication and critical thinking skills so never shy away from taking a place upfront. Voice your ideas, discuss with others and help the only world we have be greater.

I wish you a rewarding and prosperous Model United Nations Experience.

Best Regards

HÜSEYİN CAN ÇETİNTAŞ

Secretary General

2. Letter from the Under-Secretary-General

Beloved Delegates,

It is both an honor and a great pleasure to welcome you all to AKAMUN'24 and our exceptional committee, DISEC. I am Berf Elbir, the Under Secretary General of our committee, and I will be guiding you throughout this conference.

This year, we have one critical agenda item: 'Managing Nuclear Weapons'. This topic is of utmost importance, as nuclear weapons continue to pose an existential threat to global security. We expect you, as delegates, to work together to find solutions that can alleviate the risks associated with these weapons and ensure a safer world for all.

I would like to emphasize that this issue is crucial for every nation, whether directly involved or not. As delegates, it is your responsibility to raise your voice against the proliferation of nuclear weapons, advocate for disarmament, and work toward ensuring peace and security across the globe. I sincerely hope that each of you will give your best effort in addressing this critical issue and will represent your country with honor and dedication.

I trust that the study guide will serve as a valuable resource to help you navigate the discussions and come prepared for the debates ahead. I am excited to meet all of you and look forward to witnessing your contributions to finding solutions to this pressing issue.

Sincerely,

Berf Elbir

Under Secretary General of GA1: DISEC

3. Introduction to the Disarmament & International Security Committee

The Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC) is the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, responsible for addressing issues related to international peace and security, including disarmament and the regulation of arms. DISEC operates with the goal of promoting global stability and preventing conflict by addressing threats to international security. It serves as a platform for member states to collaborate on resolving pressing security challenges.

DISEC is composed of all UN member states, making it one of the largest deliberative bodies within the UN. Each member state has one vote, and decisions are made by consensus or majority vote. Resolutions passed by DISEC are non-binding but carry significant weight in shaping international policies and discussions.

In the context of the agenda on nuclear weapons, DISEC is uniquely positioned to lead the global discussion on the challenges posed by nuclear proliferation, disarmament, and the threat of nuclear conflict. As the principal forum for debating these issues, DISEC aims to foster international cooperation and consensus toward reducing the risks associated with nuclear weapons and promoting global security.

Role of DISEC in Addressing the Nuclear Weapons Agenda

DISEC is tasked with examining the following aspects of nuclear weapons in this committee:

1. **Promoting Disarmament:** Working towards practical steps for nuclear disarmament in line with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and other international agreements.

2. **Regulating Nuclear Proliferation:** Developing strategies to prevent the spread of nuclear technology and materials to non-nuclear-armed states or non-state actors.
3. **Addressing Modernization Efforts:** Investigating the potential security risks posed by nuclear modernization programs and hypersonic delivery systems.
4. **Encouraging International Cooperation:** Facilitating dialogue between nuclear-armed and non-nuclear-armed states to promote transparency and trust.

Through its resolutions, DISEC seeks to provide actionable solutions that balance the needs of security, sovereignty, and global stability. This agenda presents an opportunity for member states to take meaningful steps toward addressing one of the most pressing threats to international peace.

4. Key Terminology and Definitions

1. **Nuclear Weapon:** A weapon that releases energy through nuclear reactions, either fission (splitting atomic nuclei) or fusion (combining nuclei), capable of causing massive destruction.
2. **Fission:** A nuclear reaction in which a heavy atomic nucleus splits into smaller nuclei, releasing energy. Used in atomic bombs.
3. **Fusion:** A nuclear reaction where light nuclei combine to form a heavier nucleus, releasing energy. Found in hydrogen bombs.
4. **Nuclear Proliferation:** The spread of nuclear weapons, technology, or materials to nations that do not already possess them.
5. **Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT):** An international treaty aimed at preventing the spread of nuclear weapons, promoting peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and advancing disarmament.
6. **Disarmament:** The reduction or elimination of a country's nuclear weapons or military forces.
7. **Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD):** A doctrine of military strategy where the use of nuclear weapons by two or more opposing sides would result in total annihilation of both the attacker and the defender.

8. **Nuclear Deterrence:** A strategy to deter adversaries from attacking by threatening them with devastating nuclear retaliation.
9. **First Strike Capability:** The ability of a country to launch a preemptive nuclear attack to significantly weaken or destroy an opponent's capacity to retaliate.
10. **Second Strike Capability:** The ability of a country to respond to a nuclear attack with its own retaliatory strike.
11. **Nuclear Fallout:** The residual radioactive material propelled into the atmosphere after a nuclear explosion, which eventually falls to the ground.
12. **ICBM (Intercontinental Ballistic Missile):** A missile equipped with a nuclear warhead, capable of traveling long distances to strike targets across continents.
13. **CTBT (Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty):** A treaty banning all nuclear explosions for both civilian and military purposes, yet not fully ratified by some key states.
14. **IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency):** An organization promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy and preventing its use for military purposes.
15. **Nuclear-Free Zone:** A region where the development, possession, or deployment of nuclear weapons is prohibited by agreement.

16. **Tactical Nuclear Weapon:** A smaller, less powerful nuclear weapon designed for use on a battlefield rather than for strategic purposes.
17. **No First Use (NFU):** A pledge by a nuclear state not to use nuclear weapons unless first attacked by an opponent with them.
18. **Fallout Shelter:** A structure designed to protect people from radioactive fallout resulting from a nuclear explosion.
19. **Nuclear Umbrella:** Security assurances provided by nuclear-armed states to their allies, deterring adversaries by guaranteeing a nuclear response if attacked.
20. **Dirty Bomb:** A radiological dispersal device combining conventional explosives with radioactive materials to spread contamination.
21. **Nuclear Modernization:** The process of upgrading nuclear arsenals with more advanced technology, raising concerns about arms races and global stability.

5. Overview of the Nuclear Weapon Technologies

Nuclear weapons cause significant environmental, health, and political impacts:

Environmental Damage

- **Blast and Heat:** The explosion destroys cities, starts fires, and causes massive environmental devastation. Firestorms can wipe out forests and wildlife.
- **Radiation Fallout:** Radioactive particles spread after the explosion, contaminating soil, water, and air. This fallout can remain dangerous for decades, making areas uninhabitable.
- **Nuclear Winter:** Multiple nuclear explosions could send soot into the atmosphere, blocking sunlight and causing global cooling, which would disrupt agriculture and lead to famine.

Radiation and Health Effects

- **Immediate Radiation:** The explosion releases gamma rays and neutrons, causing severe burns, radiation sickness, and death to those close to the blast.
- **Fallout:** Long-term exposure to radiation can cause cancer, genetic mutations, and other health issues for both humans and animals.
- **Chronic Health Risks:** Survivors of nuclear explosions, such as those in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, suffer from long-term health problems, including cancer and other radiation-induced diseases.

Political Threats

- **Nuclear Deterrence:** Nuclear weapons serve as a threat to prevent attacks. Nations with nuclear weapons use them for political leverage, knowing they could retaliate with massive destruction.
- **Arms Race:** The existence of nuclear weapons causes other nations to develop their own, increasing the risk of nuclear conflict. This arms race creates tension and instability.
- **Global Security Risks:** The presence of nuclear weapons makes the world more prone to accidental or deliberate nuclear war. Diplomatic efforts like arms control treaties aim to limit nuclear weapons, but the threat remains high.

6. Historical Background of Nuclear Weapons

1. The Manhattan Project (1942–1945)

- **Overview:** The development of the first nuclear weapons was initiated during World War II under the secretive U.S. government project called the Manhattan Project. Scientists, including notable figures like J. Robert Oppenheimer and Enrico Fermi, worked on the project to build an atomic bomb before Nazi Germany could do so.
- **Outcome:** The project culminated in the successful test of the first nuclear weapon, known as the "Trinity" test, in July 1945 in the New Mexico desert.

2. The Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki (1945)

- **Overview:** The United States dropped two atomic bombs on Japan in August 1945, during the final stages of World War II. The first bomb, nicknamed "Little Boy," was dropped on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, followed by "Fat Man" on Nagasaki on August 9, 1945.
- **Outcome:** The bombings killed an estimated 200,000 people, either instantly or from the subsequent radiation sickness. These attacks played a major role in Japan's surrender and the end of World War II.

3. The Cold War and the Arms Race (1947–1991)

- **Overview:** Following World War II, the United States and the Soviet Union entered into a geopolitical rivalry known as the Cold War. Both nations sought to develop superior nuclear arsenals, leading to an arms race. This period saw the rapid

expansion of nuclear weapons technology, with both sides building thousands of nuclear warheads and delivery systems.

- **Key Events:**

- **The Soviet Union's First Nuclear Test (1949):** The USSR successfully detonated its first atomic bomb, "First Lightning," in 1949, marking the beginning of the nuclear arms race.
- **The Cuban Missile Crisis (1962):** A tense 13-day confrontation between the U.S. and the Soviet Union over the Soviet installation of nuclear missiles in Cuba brought the world to the brink of nuclear war.

4. The Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) (1968)

- **Overview:** In 1968, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) was established to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy. The treaty aimed to work toward nuclear disarmament, while allowing nuclear powers to maintain their arsenals for security.
- **Outcome:** The NPT has been signed by nearly all countries in the world, though countries like India, Pakistan, and North Korea have not signed it and have developed nuclear weapons outside of the treaty framework.

5. The Test Ban Treaties

- **Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) (1996):** This treaty aimed to ban all nuclear explosions for both civilian and military purposes, marking a major step in the global movement toward nuclear disarmament. While the treaty has not yet entered into force (as it requires ratification by specific countries), it has been widely adopted and has helped to curb nuclear testing.

- **Partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (PTBT) (1963):** This treaty banned atmospheric, underwater, and outer space nuclear tests but allowed underground nuclear tests. It was a significant step in limiting nuclear testing during the Cold War.

6. Nuclear Weapons in the Modern Era

- **Nuclear Proliferation:** In the late 20th and early 21st centuries, nuclear weapons spread to countries beyond the original nuclear powers. Nations such as India (1974), Pakistan (1998), and North Korea (2006) developed nuclear weapons, leading to concerns over regional arms races and the risks of nuclear conflict.
- **Arms Control Agreements:** Various arms control agreements have been established to limit the number and spread of nuclear weapons, such as the **Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START)** between the U.S. and Russia, which aimed to reduce the number of strategic nuclear weapons.

7. The Role of Nuclear Weapons in Global Security

- **Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD):** During the Cold War, both the U.S. and the Soviet Union maintained large arsenals of nuclear weapons, believing that any nuclear conflict would lead to total annihilation for both sides. This doctrine of Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) helped prevent direct nuclear war but also fueled global fears of an escalation into nuclear conflict.
- **Modernization and New Threats:** In recent decades, nuclear-armed nations have pursued the modernization of their arsenals, with the development of more advanced weapons, including hypersonic missiles, which present new challenges for arms control and non-proliferation efforts.

7. Focus Regions

United States

The United States has long been a leader in nuclear weapons development, having created and used the first atomic bombs during World War II. As one of the five recognized nuclear-armed states under the **Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)**, the U.S. maintains a significant nuclear arsenal, estimated to be around 5,800 warheads, including deployed, reserve, and retired stockpiles. The U.S. follows a policy of **deterrence**, maintaining a large, modern nuclear arsenal to deter adversaries from initiating an attack. The U.S. also heavily invests in the modernization of its nuclear forces, including upgrading its **triad** of delivery systems: land-based missiles, strategic bombers, and nuclear-powered submarines.

In recent years, U.S. policy has focused on maintaining a credible nuclear deterrent while promoting non-proliferation globally. The United States has been involved in a series of arms control agreements, such as the **New START** treaty with Russia, which limits the number of deployed strategic nuclear warheads and delivery systems. Despite its commitments to arms control, the U.S. has pursued nuclear modernization programs, including the development of new warheads and more advanced delivery systems. The country also emphasizes the importance of nuclear non-proliferation efforts, working to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons while encouraging nuclear disarmament as a long-term goal.

Russia

Russia, as the successor state to the Soviet Union, inherited a massive nuclear arsenal, one of the largest in the world. Russia maintains a nuclear stockpile of around 6,375 warheads, with a focus on strategic nuclear deterrence. Russia's military doctrine includes the potential use of nuclear weapons in response to conventional threats, and it has made it clear that nuclear weapons are an integral part of its defense strategy. Unlike the United States, Russia has maintained a more confrontational stance on nuclear deterrence, often emphasizing the role of nuclear weapons in deterring external threats, particularly from NATO and Western powers.

Russia has invested in the modernization of its nuclear forces, including the development of new intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs), and hypersonic weapons. The country has also been vocal about its opposition to certain arms control treaties, particularly the **Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty**, which it withdrew from in 2019. Russia's nuclear posture reflects its strategic focus on regional and global influence, with an emphasis on ensuring nuclear superiority and maintaining a robust second-strike capability.

China

China's nuclear policy is characterized by its commitment to a "no first use" (NFU) policy, meaning it pledges not to use nuclear weapons unless first attacked by an adversary using nuclear weapons. China has steadily expanded and modernized its nuclear arsenal, estimated at around 350 nuclear warheads, focusing on ensuring a credible deterrent rather than engaging in a massive arms race. The country is modernizing its nuclear forces, including the development of more sophisticated missile systems and the deployment of nuclear-capable submarines, in order to strengthen its second-strike capabilities.

While China is not a primary target of U.S. nuclear deterrence, it views nuclear weapons as crucial to its national security and as a means of asserting itself on the global stage. The country's nuclear doctrine is focused on preventing nuclear escalation, while enhancing its overall security posture. China has been involved in several international nuclear arms control efforts but has called for global nuclear disarmament and the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons. It remains wary of the growing nuclear arsenals of other countries, particularly the U.S. and Russia, and seeks to maintain a balance between nuclear deterrence and strategic stability.

United Kingdom

The United Kingdom is one of the five recognized nuclear-armed states under the NPT. With a relatively smaller nuclear arsenal compared to the U.S. or Russia, the UK maintains around 225 nuclear warheads, a significant portion of which are deployed on nuclear-powered submarines, ensuring a continuous at-sea deterrent. The UK adheres to a policy of nuclear deterrence and maintains the stance that nuclear weapons are essential for the defense of the nation and its allies, particularly within the NATO framework.

The UK has committed to reducing the size of its nuclear arsenal in recent years, in line with its obligations under the NPT and arms control agreements. In 2021, the UK announced an increase in its nuclear warhead stockpile for the first time in decades, citing the growing nuclear threat from countries like China and Russia. However, the UK continues to stress the importance of multilateral disarmament efforts and remains committed to non-proliferation, even as it modernizes its nuclear capabilities, particularly its **Trident** missile system.

France

France is another of the five nuclear-armed NPT states and maintains around 300 nuclear warheads. France has a policy of **nuclear deterrence** similar to that of the UK and the U.S. Its nuclear arsenal is primarily based on submarine-launched missiles and air-launched cruise missiles. France maintains a more independent nuclear posture and is less reliant on NATO's nuclear umbrella compared to the UK. The country emphasizes its nuclear deterrent as vital for its national security and the security of Europe as a whole.

France has been active in nuclear non-proliferation efforts but has also been a proponent of nuclear modernization. While it advocates for multilateral disarmament, it has made it clear that nuclear weapons will remain an essential part of its national defense for the foreseeable future. France's stance on nuclear weapons is often seen as a balancing act between promoting non-proliferation and maintaining its own deterrent capability. The country also plays a role in the European security landscape, working with its EU partners to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and encourage responsible nuclear policies.

India

India conducted its first successful nuclear test in 1974, and since then, it has developed a robust nuclear arsenal. India has adopted a policy of **no first use (NFU)**, similar to China, but has expanded its nuclear capabilities in recent years. The country's nuclear arsenal is estimated at around 160 nuclear warheads, and India has focused on developing a credible second-strike capability through the enhancement of its land, air, and sea-based delivery systems. The development of ballistic missile defense (BMD) systems is also a key component of India's strategic defense posture.

India is not a signatory to the NPT and has faced international scrutiny for its nuclear weapons program. However, India views its nuclear deterrent as essential for its security, particularly in the face of regional threats, most notably from Pakistan and China. India advocates for a nuclear-free world but maintains that it will retain its nuclear weapons as long as other countries continue to possess them. India has also sought closer nuclear cooperation with the United States, which led to the **U.S.-India Civil Nuclear Agreement** in 2008, allowing India to access nuclear technology for civilian purposes while maintaining its nuclear weapons program.

Pakistan

Pakistan developed nuclear weapons in response to India's nuclear tests, particularly after India's first successful test in 1974. Pakistan's nuclear arsenal is estimated at around 170 nuclear warheads, and the country maintains a policy of **minimum credible deterrence**. Unlike India, Pakistan has not declared a **no first use** policy, and its nuclear weapons are viewed as a vital component of its defense strategy, particularly against India. The country has focused on developing both **short-range tactical nuclear weapons** and long-range missile systems, enhancing its ability to deter potential threats from its regional neighbor.

Pakistan is not a signatory to the NPT, viewing the treaty as discriminatory, and it has faced international pressure to curb its nuclear weapons program. Despite this, Pakistan has emphasized its commitment to nuclear security and the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Tensions with India over Kashmir have kept the nuclear balance in South Asia fragile, and Pakistan continues to emphasize its nuclear deterrent as a cornerstone of its national defense.

North Korea

North Korea's nuclear weapons program has been a central issue in global security concerns since the country conducted its first nuclear test in 2006. North Korea has developed an estimated arsenal of around 40–50 nuclear warheads and has made significant progress in missile technology, including the development of intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) capable of reaching the U.S. mainland. North Korea's nuclear policy is centered on **nuclear deterrence** against perceived threats, particularly from the U.S. and its allies, and the country has stated that its nuclear arsenal is essential for its survival.

North Korea's nuclear weapons program has led to extensive international sanctions and diplomatic efforts to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula. Despite ongoing negotiations and temporary agreements, North Korea has continued to expand its nuclear capabilities, demonstrating defiance toward international demands for disarmament. The country views its nuclear weapons as a means of securing its regime and enhancing its bargaining power in international negotiations, particularly with the U.S. and South Korea.

Israel

Israel has a policy of nuclear ambiguity, neither confirming nor denying the possession of nuclear weapons, which it views as a vital part of its national security strategy. Its nuclear program dates back to the 1950s, with early assistance from France, and is believed to have produced an estimated 80-90 nuclear warheads. Israel's policy of "strategic ambiguity" allows it to deter potential adversaries without provoking an arms race in the region. While Israel has never publicly declared its nuclear capabilities, it is widely believed that it maintains a credible nuclear deterrent as a safeguard against the volatile security environment in the Middle East. The country's nuclear arsenal is viewed as a last resort for ensuring the survival of the state in the face of existential threats.

In recent years, Israel has consistently emphasized the importance of nuclear deterrence, asserting that its nuclear weapons are central to its security. Israel does not have a formal "no first use" policy, but it is understood that it would only deploy nuclear weapons in the most extreme circumstances. The country has been particularly vocal about preventing nuclear proliferation in the region, notably in its opposition to Iran's nuclear ambitions. While Israel remains outside the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), it continues to advocate for a nuclear-free Middle East, albeit under conditions that would include the full denuclearization of regional states, especially Iran. Israel's nuclear policy continues to evolve in response to regional threats, but the overall stance remains focused on maintaining a strong deterrent capability in the face of growing security challenges.

8. Points to Cover

- **What role could nuclear weapons play in determining the outcome of future conflicts?**
- **How can the United Nations ensure that countries with nuclear weapons do not use them in times of war?**
- **What specific actions can countries take to safely and effectively reduce their existing nuclear arsenals and work toward global disarmament?**
- **Should countries continue to use nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, such as energy production, and if so, how can its use be regulated to prevent misuse?**
- **What measures can be taken to ensure global preparedness in the event of a nuclear conflict?**
- **Should the international community pursue a complete ban on nuclear weapons?**
- **Does the possession of nuclear weapons give certain countries an advantage, and how can this imbalance be addressed?**
- **How can international education and awareness programs be designed to effectively shift global perspectives on nuclear weapons, encouraging widespread support for disarmament?**

- **Considering the environmental benefits over fossil fuels, should nuclear energy production be actively promoted as a sustainable alternative, and what safeguards should be in place to ensure its safe use?**