



ARCMUN

Aristotelio College Model United Nations

SECURITY COUNCIL

**Non-proliferation & Nuclear Weapons; The issue of the
Democratic People's Republic of Korea.**

Study Guide

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1. Introduction to the Topic:

The first purpose of the United Nations is "to maintain international peace and security," and there may be no greater threat to peace and security than nuclear weapons. It is generally admitted, and proven by history as well, that the use of nuclear weapons is evidently one of the most dangerous and challenging matters, which can literally change the world and lead to a global human threat.

The genesis of the nuclear weapon began in the 1930s, also known as the "Manhattan Project". This project was secretly designed by countless scientists in order to beat Hitler by developing nuclear weapons, once they were first theoretically possible. By 1945 Germany had surrendered and there was still no working nuclear weapon and many pressed for the research to be pushed in more peaceful direction, such as finding clean sources of energy. However, US President Harry Truman lobbied for the US to develop nuclear power, before the Soviet Union and so the first test was scheduled ¹.

Nuclear weapons have been used twice in war by the United States against Japan, during World War II. The first fission bomb was detonated over the Japanese city Hiroshima and the second one over Nagasaki. The consequences and the disasters provoked from the bombings resulted in the death of thousands of civilians (150,000-200,000 casualties) and the degradation of the quality of the lives of hundreds of future generations, as they continue to experience – even after all these years – the devastating effects of the bombings.

Most importantly, after these events an arms race started; As a response to the military superiority of the USA, other countries like the Soviet Union began to develop their own weapons of mass destruction (WMD). The latter achieved to construct these weapons in 1949, which pushed the USA to develop even more powerful weapons like the H Bomb (thermonuclear) in 1951. Since the US and the USSR developed nuclear weapons in 1945 and 1949, respectively, various other states have followed in their footsteps and, thus, five major nuclear states have emerged in total: **the United States of America, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, France and China** ².

In 1950 the Stockholm Peace Appeal resulted in 500 million signatures from 79 countries asking for a ban on nuclear weapons, which was never put into practice. In 1958 a Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament was launched in Britain. Some reaction was necessary on the part of governments however and a military hotline was installed between the US and Soviet Presidents to aid communication. This in turn led to the Partial Test Ban Treaty in 1963 which stated that nuclear weapons could only be tested underground. Many Arms Control treaties were signed and most importantly the 'Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty' (1968), which stated that the five nuclear weapons states would not assist or encourage the development of nuclear weapons in other countries. However, with this treaty all countries have the right to develop their own nuclear power, which it has sometimes been proved problematic ³.

Alongside those developments, other countries, such as **India, Israel, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq and, most recently, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea** (DPRK or North Korea, in 2006) have pursued the objective of obtaining nuclear capacity as well.

About 22,000 nuclear weapons reportedly remain in our world today and there have been over 2,000 nuclear tests conducted to date. Disarmament is the best protection against such dangers,

¹ Healthguidance.org. (2017). Brief History of Nuclear Weapons. [online] Available at: <http://www.healthguidance.org/entry/13709/1/Brief-History-of-Nuclear-Weapons.html> [Accessed 16 Nov. 2017].

² New Internationalist. (2017). Nuclear weapons: a history. [online] Available at: <https://newint.org/features/2008/06/01/nuclear-weapons-history> [Accessed 16 Nov. 2017].

³ Healthguidance.org. (2017). Brief History of Nuclear Weapons. [online] Available at: <http://www.healthguidance.org/entry/13709/1/Brief-History-of-Nuclear-Weapons.html> [Accessed 16 Nov. 2017].

but achieving this goal has been a tremendously difficult challenge⁴. A lot of ethical, practical and political problems have deprived from the matter of the use of nuclear weapons and a series of international treaties and agreements states have been signed, in order to achieve the greatest goal; reduction of the use of nuclear weapons only in cases of emergency.

As the recent developments have shown, the issue of the DPRK and its nuclear ambitions is of paramount importance. Therefore, it will be examined as a case study in the main part of this Guide (Section 4.6.).

2. Definition of Key Terms:

2.1.Nuclear weapon

A nuclear weapon is a device designed to release energy in an explosive manner as a result of nuclear fission, nuclear fusion, or a combination of the two processes. Fission weapons are commonly referred to as atomic bombs, while fusion weapons are also referred to as thermonuclear bombs or, more commonly, hydrogen bombs. Nuclear weapons produce enormous explosive energy⁵.

2.2.Nuclear Weapon States (NWS)

There are the five states – China, France, Russia, United Kingdom (UK), and the United States of America (USA) – officially recognized as possessing nuclear weapons by the NPT (they are also characterized as “possessors”. The treaty legitimizes these states’ nuclear arsenals, but establishes they are not supposed to build and maintain such weapons in perpetuity. The states of India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea are characterized as Non-NPT Nuclear Weapons Possessors⁶.

2.3.Nuclear weapon free zones (NWFZ)

A nuclear-weapon-free zone (NWFZ) is a specified region in which countries commit themselves not to manufacture, acquire, test, or possess nuclear weapons. They basically entail a free arrangement among two or more states concerned in which they agree to “total absence of nuclear weapons” and an “international system of verification and control” (UN Res. 3742 B, 1975).

Five such zones exist today, with four of them spanning the entire Southern Hemisphere. The regions currently covered under NWFZ agreements include: Latin America (the 1967 Treaty of Tlatelolco), the South Pacific (the 1985 Treaty of Rarotonga), Southeast Asia (the 1995 Treaty of Bangkok) Africa (the 1996 Treaty of Pelindaba) and Central Asia (the 2006 Treaty of Semipalatinsk)⁷.

Article VII of the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) affirms the right of countries to establish specified zones free of nuclear weapons. The UN General Assembly reaffirmed that

⁴ Un.org. (2017). Nuclear Weapons – UNODA. [online] Available at: <https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/> [Accessed 11 Nov. 2017].

⁵ Encyclopedia Britannica. (2017). nuclear weapon | History, Facts, Types, & Effects. [online] Available at: <https://www.britannica.com/technology/nuclear-weapon> [Accessed 11 Nov. 2017].

⁶ Armscontrol.org. (2017). Nuclear Weapons: Who Has What at a Glance | Arms Control Association. [online] Available at: <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/Nuclearweaponswhohaswhat> [Accessed 11 Nov. 2017].

⁷ Iaea.org. (2017). Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zones | IAEA. [online] Available at: <https://www.iaea.org/topics/nuclear-weapon-free-zones> [Accessed 11 Nov. 2017].

right in 1975 (Resolution 3472 B⁸) and outlined the criteria for such zones. Within these nuclear-weapon-free zones, countries may use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes ⁹.

2.4.No first use policy / doctrine (NFU)

The NFU refers to a policy or a commitment adopted and promoted by a nuclear weapon state (NWS), in order to avoid any use or threat to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon states or Nuclear Weapon Free Zones (NWFZ) at any time or circumstances. Launching nuclear weapons is allowed only if the enemy deployed them first, as a means of defense. Nuclear weapons are meant to deter only nuclear attacks.

2.5.Nuclear proliferation

Nuclear proliferation is used to describe the spread of nuclear weapons, nuclear weapons technology, or fissile material to countries which are not yet in possession of nuclear weapons ¹⁰.

2.6.Nuclear non-proliferation / disarmament / denuclearization

Non-proliferation refers to the prevention the spread of nuclear weapons and to the contribution to arms control and disarmament progress, is the effort to eliminate the spread of nuclear weapon technology, and to reduce existing stockpiles of nuclear weapons ¹¹.

The nuclear non-proliferation regime's components serve to:

- Create legally binding nonproliferation obligations
- Strengthen international norms against the spread of nuclear weapons
- Control access to nuclear weapons-relevant materials and technologies
- Build trust between states by verifying compliance with treaty commitments
- Enforce treaties in instances of non-compliance ¹².

3. Legal Framework ¹³

The international community, as mentioned above, has already occupied itself in an extensive manner with the issue of the nuclear non-proliferation. These actions and efforts resulted to the creation of a legal framework that consists of international treaties and “soft law” documents that refer to the matter under question. The term “soft law” encompasses rules that are included in treaties, resolutions, recommendations, codes of conduct, guidelines or policy declarations and are not legally binding ¹⁴.

⁸ Un.org. (2017). *Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones – UNODA*. [online] Available at: <https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/nwzf/> [Accessed 11 Nov. 2017].

⁹ Armscontrol.org. (2017). *Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones (NWFZ) At a Glance | Arms Control Association*. [online] Available at: <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/nwzf> [Accessed 11 Nov. 2017].

¹⁰ Timeforchange.org. (2017). *Nuclear Proliferation in a nutshell | Time for change*. [online] Available at: <http://timeforchange.org/what-is-nuclear-proliferation-nutshell> [Accessed 11 Nov. 2017].

¹¹ Touran, N. (2017). *What is Nuclear? / Nuclear Energy*. [online] Whatisnuclear.com. Available at: <https://whatisnuclear.com/articles/proliferation.html> [Accessed 11 Nov. 2017].

¹² Nuclear Threat Initiative. (2017). *What Is It? Why Is It Important?*. [online] Available at: <http://tutorials.nti.org/nonproliferation-regime-tutorial/nti-nuclear-nonproliferation-regime-treaties-by-country/> [Accessed 11 Nov. 2017].

¹³ Nti.org. (2017). *Treaties | Learn | NTI*. [online] Available at: <http://www.nti.org/learn/treaties-and-regimes/treaties/> [Accessed 11 Nov. 2017].

¹⁴ Oxfordbibliographies.com. (2017). *Soft Law - International Law - Oxford Bibliographies - obo*. [online] Available at: <http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-9780199796953/obo-9780199796953-0040.xml> [Accessed 11 Nov. 2017].

3.1. Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) ¹⁵

The NPT represents the only binding commitment in a multilateral treaty to the goal of disarmament by the nuclear-weapon States and constitutes the most widely ratified arms limitation agreement in history with 191 State Parties. The Treaty establishes a safeguards system under the responsibility of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that works as a “watchdog” of the Treaty ¹⁶. While the treaty is a major step towards nuclear disarmament, it holds certain constraints.

This treaty was opened for signature on 1 July 1968 and entered into force in March 1970. It recognizes five “nuclear-weapon states”: The United States, The Russian Federation, United Kingdom, France, and China.

The NPT operates on **three core concepts**.

1. **Non-proliferation:** This concept states that signatory nations will take measures to prevent and stop the spread of nuclear weapons and technology from parties that have nuclear capabilities to parties that do not. This agreement goes both ways: signatory parties that do not have nuclear capabilities may not obtain nuclear weapon capabilities.
2. **Disarmament:** The success of the NPT can be seen in countries that have had nuclear technology or nuclear weapons and have since disarmed themselves willingly.
3. **Peaceful use of nuclear energy:** Countries that wish to pursue peaceful nuclear energy and nuclear technology should be permitted to do so under their sovereign rights. However, some nations have used this mantra as a curtain under which to hide the development of nuclear weapons for non-peaceful purposes.

3.2. Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) ¹⁷

The CTBT was completed in 1995 and opened for signatures in 1996, while it currently has 166 State Parties. It is the Treaty banning all nuclear explosions - everywhere, by everyone. The CTBT is the last barrier on the way to develop nuclear weapons. It curbs the development of new nuclear weapons and the improvement of existing nuclear weapon designs, while – after entering into force – it will provide a legally binding norm against nuclear testing. The Treaty also helps prevent human suffering and environmental damages caused by nuclear testing ¹⁸.

It should be underlined that the Treaty has not yet entered into force, since there is still a need for ratification by eight remaining states before the it can come into force according to its provisions.

3.3. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons / Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty ¹⁹

¹⁵ Disarmament.un.org. (2017). *Show Treaty*. [online] Available at: <http://disarmament.un.org/treaties/t/npt/text> [Accessed 11 Nov. 2017].

¹⁶ Un.org. (2017). Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) – UNODA. [online] Available at: <https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/npt/> [Accessed 11 Nov. 2017].

¹⁷ Disarmament.un.org. (2017). *Show Treaty*. [online] Available at: <http://disarmament.un.org/treaties/t/ctbt/text> [Accessed 11 Nov. 2017].

¹⁸ Ctbt.org. (2017). What is the CTBT?: CTBTO Preparatory Commission. [online] Available at: <https://www.ctbto.org/the-treaty/article-xiv-conferences/2011/afc11-information-for-media-and-press/what-is-the-ctbt/> [Accessed 11 Nov. 2017].

¹⁹ Nti.org. (2017). Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons | Treaties & Regimes | NTI. [online] Available at: <http://www.nti.org/learn/treaties-and-regimes/treaty-on-the-prohibition-of-nuclear-weapons/> [Accessed 11 Nov. 2017].

This Treaty was adopted on the 7th of July 2017 by the General Assembly, who had decided to convene in 2017 a United Nations conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit the possession and the use of nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination. It opened for signatures on the 20th of November 2017 and shall enter into force 90 days after 50 States have ratified it.

The Ban Treaty prohibits the development, testing, use, threat of use, production, manufacture, acquisition, possession, stationing, and stockpiling of nuclear weapons. These prohibitions go substantially beyond existing international treaties on nuclear weapons, such as the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) or the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), since this document imposes a universal and absolute prohibition – that goes hand-in-hand with a time-bound framework – on all members.

However, the Ban Treaty's ultimate practical implications are constrained by a stark participatory divide. None of the nuclear weapons possessors, or so-called “umbrella states,” support the treaty, meaning that they are not legally bound by its terms, thus reducing the Treaty's power ²⁰.

3.4.US-DPRK Agreed Framework ²¹

According to the Agreed Framework, that was agreed upon on the 21st of October 1994, the DPRK agreed to pause the operations of its nuclear program in return of a package of financial benefits from the United States. This Framework was a consistent step towards the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. Unfortunately, though, it did not work out for more than a decade. George W. Buss, who succeeded Bill Clinton as the President of the US, followed a different policy concerning North Korea. Pyongyang accused Washington of not implementing the Agreed Framework. On the 16th of October 2002 acquired information indicated that North Korea had started again its nuclear program, while North Korea itself verified the information.

3.5.GA Res 1 (I) ²²

On the 24th of January 1946, the United Nations General Assembly adopted this Resolution. During the final moments of World War II the United States fired two atomic bombs in Japanese territory, in the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It was a moment that changed the world. The United Nations – formed right after the end of WWII – were determined to ensure that nuclear weapons will never be used again and this desire is expressed via the very first resolution of the General Assembly.

3.6.Strategic Arms Limitation Talks I & II (SALT) ²³

Details about nuclear arms control can be found in Strategic Arms Limitation Talks I and II, two bilateral agreements between the United States of America and the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics.

SALT I lasted from 1969-1972, while SALT II lasted from 1972-1979. After the fall of the USSR, the Russian Federation, which succeeded the USSR, agreed along with the USA a

²⁰ Nti.org. (2017). Understanding the New Nuclear Weapons Ban | NTI. [online] Available at: <http://www.nti.org/analysis/articles/understanding-new-nuclear-weapons-ban/> [Accessed 11 Nov. 2017].

²¹ Nti.org. (2017). US-DPRK Agreed Framework | Treaties & Regimes | NTI. [online] Available at: <http://www.nti.org/learn/treaties-and-regimes/us-dprk-agreed-framework/> [Accessed 17 Nov. 2017].

²² Un.org. (2017). Document officiel des Nations Unies. [online] Available at: http://www.un.org/fr/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/PV.17 [Accessed 17 Nov. 2017].

²³ Nti.org. (2017). Treaties | Learn | NTI. [online] Available at: <http://www.nti.org/learn/treaties-and-regimes/treaties/> [Accessed 17 Nov. 2017].

Treaty on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (New START).

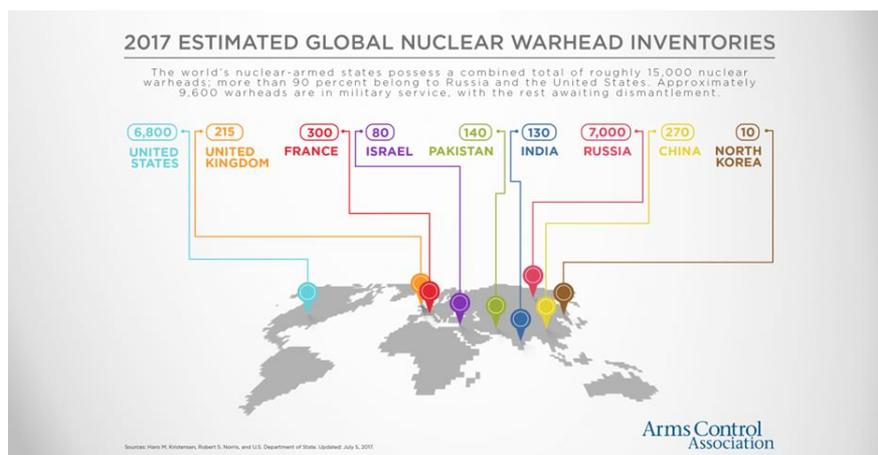
4. Discussion of the topic

4.1. Nuclear strategy

During the passage of time, and especially after the Cold War, a lot of countries have developed nuclear doctrines / strategies in order to determine the future and the usage of nuclear weapons. There is no difference between nuclear and military strategies. More specifically, a nuclear strategy implemented by a Nuclear Weapon State (NWS) details how many nuclear weapons to deploy, what delivery systems to put them on, and also what kind of policies need to be adopted, while always taking into consideration the circumstances in which they would be used.

Each member state has developed its own nuclear strategy in order to ensure the survival of its counterattack capability in the event of nuclear aggression. **The United States** have adopted a “minimal deterrence” policy, which focuses on the destruction of military targets. **Russia** has increasingly emphasized on the role of non-strategic nuclear weapons. Adoption of a doctrine of nuclear first-use illustrates this trend. Moreover, because of its ever-shrinking strategic nuclear force, Russia is opposed to a U.S. NMD program for fear that it will deteriorate further Russia's strategic deterrent. On the other hand, **China** promotes a strategy which emphasizes on damaging a handful of enemy cities and, until now, it is the only country that has not shown any kind of weapon reduction. The **U.K and France** are exploring the rationale for the maintenance of their nuclear forces. France once tried to give new significance to its nuclear force by advocating "Euro-deterrent." The initiative, however, did not bring about positive reactions in Europe. The British and French nuclear forces may continue to exist for the noble cause of an ultimate means for their security²⁴.

The following images can be proven quite useful as regards the situation during 2017.



²⁴ Nids.mod.go.jp. (2017). Cite a Website - Cite This For Me. [online] Available at: http://www.nids.mod.go.jp/publication/kiyo/pdf/bulletin_j3-1_6.pdf [Accessed 17 Nov. 2017].

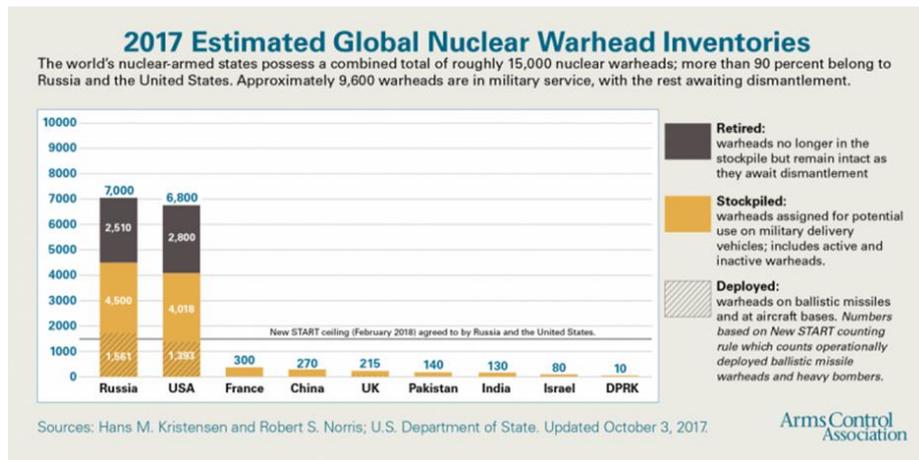


Figure 1²⁵

4.2. Causes and Consequences of Nuclear Weapons Proliferation and Use

Nuclear weapons are a synonym to power and sovereignty. They definitely consist of a path to security and dominance, as they can help in the implementation of the will of the most influential countries. The fact that a state, such as North Korea, constitutes a powerful state which has nuclear weapons creates the idea to all other countries and member states of the UN that they are untouchable. This way, the destabilization of the region would be more likely to occur. Meanwhile, countries whose economy and political stability depend on Nuclear Weapon States are consequently obliged to comply with the current situation, in order to be protected as well²⁶. More specifically, they need to find ways of creation and construction of nuclear weapons in order to maintain their own security and ability to respond to a possible crisis or simply need to proceed to no acts that question the actions of Nuclear Weapon States. Thus, it is true that one of the most important causes of nuclear proliferation is the insecurity of states and the existing regime (mainly the NPT) does nothing to address this insecurity. It only attempts to stop nuclear proliferation through supply-side measures, by preventing the transfer of nuclear technology to non-nuclear states²⁷.

Countries also see that it is impossible to prevent proliferation and are therefore not deterred from seeking weapons. They see, for instance, that countries like China and Russian Federation will typically not endorse international efforts to deter countries from nuclear weapons. Therefore, a general belief that they will not be punished in any significant way for participating in proliferation activities is being created²⁸. Furthermore, it is true that the proliferation of nuclear weapons and technologies (also known as sensitive technologies) produces enormous profits for the countries, which export them and supply other states (France, USA). Proliferating to extort benefits is more than common for many powerful countries, as it constitutes a regime survival.

The proliferation of nuclear technologies inevitably provokes a series of consequences that lead not only to a political instability but also to a general and indefinite crisis.

More specifically, nuclear explosions produce both immediate and delayed destructive effects. Blast, thermal radiation, and prompt ionizing radiation cause significant destruction within

²⁵ Armscontrol.org. (2017). Nuclear Weapons: Who Has What at a Glance | Arms Control Association. [online] Available at: <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/Nuclearweaponswhohaswhat> [Accessed 17 Nov. 2017].

²⁶ Help, H. and Sciences, S. (2017). Explain the causes and consequences of nuclear weapons proliferation. | eNotes. [online] eNotes. Available at: <https://www.enotes.com/homework-help/explain-causes-consequences-nuclear-weapons-462015> [Accessed 17 Nov. 2017].

²⁷ Thayer, B. (2017). The Causes of Nuclear Proliferation and the Utility of the Non-proliferation Regime.

²⁸ Help, H. and Sciences, S. (2017). Explain the causes and consequences of nuclear weapons proliferation. | eNotes. [online] eNotes. Available at: <https://www.enotes.com/homework-help/explain-causes-consequences-nuclear-weapons-462015> [Accessed 17 Nov. 2017].

seconds or minutes of a nuclear detonation. The delayed effects, such as radioactive fallout and other environmental effects, inflict damage over an extended period ranging from hours to years²⁹.

Apart from the violation of human rights, the threat posed to humanity and the ethical problems that definitely arise from this situation, the relations between the member states are being endangered with a potential global destabilization waiting just around the corner. As a direct impact, most argue that nuclear proliferation will increase the risk of nuclear war, while others counter that the threat of nuclear war is enough to convince new nuclear nations to adopt prudent security policies.

Deadly environmental effects stemming from nuclear war must be included as a primary consideration in the ongoing debate about the abolition of nuclear weapons. Massive absorption of warming sunlight by a global smoke layer would cause Ice Age temperatures on Earth. A large nuclear war would utterly devastate the environment and cause most people to starve to death. Already stressed ecosystems would collapse. Deadly climate change, radioactive fallout and toxic pollution would cause a mass extinction event, eliminating humans and most complex forms of life on Earth³⁰. A failure to address the apocalyptic potential of existing nuclear arsenals will cause the abolition discussion to lack the necessary sense of urgency needed to facilitate the elimination of these true weapons of mass destruction. It is indisputable that if a country proliferates, then other states will proliferate as well. Article 26 of the UN Charter mandates the UN Security Council to formulate a plan to promote the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources. The Security Council has entirely neglected this responsibility and its nuclear-armed permanent members have instead engaged in weapons profiteering and arms races, resulting in crises of international, national, and human security and undermining sustainable development.

4.3. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)³¹

The Statute of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was approved on 23 October 1956 by the Conference on the Statute of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which was held at the Headquarters of the United Nations. It came into force on 29 July 1957. The IAEA consists of an international organization whose goal is to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy and to inhibit its use for any military purpose, including nuclear weapons. Counting 168 Member States, with most of them being members of the UN, it reports both to the General Assembly of the UN (UNGA) and to the Security Council (UNSC).

(a) IAEA and the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)

It should also be mentioned that the IAEA has the responsibility of examining and supervising the implementation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The IAEA is not a party to the Treaty but is entrusted with key roles and responsibilities under it; it acts as the international safeguards inspectorate and as a multilateral channel for transferring peaceful applications of nuclear technology³²:

²⁹ Atomicarchive.com. (2017). Effects of Nuclear Weapons | Science | atomicarchive.com. [online] Available at: <http://www.atomicarchive.com/Effects/index.shtml> [Accessed 17 Nov. 2017].

³⁰ Inc., A. (2017). Effect of nuclear weapons | Nuclear Darkness & Nuclear Famine - The Deadly Consequence of Nuclear War. [online] Nucleardarkness.org. Available at: <http://www.nucleardarkness.org/nuclear/effectsofnuclearweapons> [Accessed 17 Nov. 2017].

³¹ Iaea.org. (2017). International Atomic Energy Agency | Atoms for Peace and Development. [online] Available at: <https://www.iaea.org/> [Accessed 11 Nov. 2017].

³² Iaea.org. (2017). Key Roles | IAEA. [online] Available at: <https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/focus/npt/key-roles> [Accessed 17 Nov. 2017].

NPT Article III: “The IAEA administers international safeguards to verify that non-nuclear weapon States party to the NPT fulfill the non-proliferation commitment they have made, "with a view to preventing diversion of nuclear energy from peaceful uses to nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices."

NPT Article IV: “The Agency facilitates and provides a channel for endeavours aimed at "the further development of the applications of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, especially in the territories of non-nuclear-weapon States Party to the Treaty, with due consideration for the needs of the developing areas of the world."

(b) Global Nuclear and Security Network / Nuclear installations / Emergency response and preparedness

The IAEA promotes a strong and sustainable global nuclear safety and security framework in its Member States, working to protect people, society and the environment from the harmful effects of ionizing radiation. These comprehensive regulatory frameworks have as a main goal the prohibition of any future nuclear proliferation and consist of relevant legislation, regulations, guidance and a robust leadership and management programme for safety. Emergency preparedness on a national and international level is of primary priority and essential in order to minimise the impacts from nuclear and radiological incidents and emergencies.

The IAEA has introduced the international Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) framework, which is based on the international legal instruments. Moreover, in September 2011, the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety was adopted by the IAEA's Board of Governors and subsequently unanimously endorsed by the IAEA General Conference. The ultimate goal of the Action Plan is to strengthen nuclear safety, emergency preparedness and radiation protection of people and the environment worldwide ³³.

(c) Nuclear Applications and Nuclear Energy ³⁴;

In a world facing the combined challenge of dwindling fossil fuels and mounting energy demand, the energy and development nexus is becoming central to the long-term strategic planning of countries. An increasing number of countries are now looking at the nuclear option as a means to secure the energy supply needed to support development. To help countries strategically plan for nuclear energy programmes, the IAEA offers them a series of tools and support in evaluating all energy supply options and in producing a new energy plan, which will preserve and reinforce nuclear energy development and deployment.

Furthermore, the Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications assists and informs member states concerning nuclear innovation, technologies and development in order to meet their expectations. Collaboration with laboratories and universities facilitates their research and the transfer of such a knowledge in a sustainable manner to each member state.

4.4. International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) ³⁵

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) is a coalition of several non-governmental organizations in one hundred countries promoting adherence to and implementation of the United Nations Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty.

Since all nations expressed their deepest concerns at the “catastrophic humanitarian consequences”, ICAN mainly focuses on the humanitarian impacts of nuclear detonations.

³³ Iaea.org. (2017). Available at: <https://www.iaea.org/sites/default/files/actionplannns.pdf> [Accessed 17 Nov. 2017].

³⁴ ibid

³⁵ Icanw.org. (2017). ICAN | International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. [online] Available at: <http://www.icanw.org/> [Accessed 11 Nov. 2017].

Working alongside with governments, ICAN achieved the adoption of a landmark Resolution³⁶ in December 2016 (the member states do not have yet signed or ratified the treaty), concerning the implementation of a “legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons”. This non-governmental campaign organizes global days of action, public awareness/information workshops and fund-raising events. The UN secretary-general praised ICAN in 2012 “for working with such commitment and creativity in pursuit of our shared goal”.

4.5. The situation in Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK)

“The DPRK is the Juche-oriented socialist state which embodies the idea and leadership of Comrade Kim Il Sung, the founder of the Republic and the father of socialist Korea.”

The aforementioned is the presentation of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea in the country’s official webpage³⁷.

For decades, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea has been one of the most secretive societies in the world. The DPRK is one of the few countries under communism rule and one of the nine countries in the world which possess nuclear weapons. Kim Jong-un is currently the leader of the country. North Korea’s nuclear ambitions have isolated the country from the western world, as the current events have highlighted more than ever before. The Security Council has addressed several times the issue of DPRK and has imposed every kind of sanctions to the country, mainly financial. But up to now, there are no signs that North Korea is willing to abstain from nuclear and ballistic missile related activities.

The history concerning nuclear weapons and the DPRK dates back to 1993, when the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the DPRK expressed the will of his country to withdraw from the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The Security Council responded with the **Resolution 825/1993**³⁸ in which the Council called upon the DPRK to reaffirm its commitment to the Treaty and to reconsider the previous statement.

13 years later, on October 2006, the DPRK conducted underground its **first nuclear test**. It is unclear how North Korea was able to have access to nuclear technology. The device was plutonium-fueled, while the estimated yield was 0.2-1 kiloton. It is likely that the test failed to achieve the expected yield, which reportedly was 4 kilotons. The response of the Security Council was once again immediate. With the **Resolution 1718/2006**³⁹ the Council condemned the test and focused on how to prevent North Korea from acquiring equipment that would help it expand its nuclear program or military.

During May 2009, North Korea conducted its **second nuclear test**, which was also carried out underground. The United Nations imposed tighter sanctions on North Korea — now almost all arms cargoes were banned — while it also called for intensified weapons inspections. In

³⁶ Icanw.org. (2017). UN General Assembly approves historic resolution | ICAN. [online] Available at: <http://www.icanw.org/campaign-news/un-general-assembly-approves-historic-resolution/> [Accessed 17 Nov. 2017].

³⁷ Korea-dpr.com. (2017). Democratic People's Republic of Korea. [online] Available at: <http://www.korea-dpr.com/> [Accessed 13 Nov. 2017].

³⁸ Unscr.com. (2017). Resolution 825. [online] Available at: <http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/doc/825> [Accessed 15 Nov. 2017].

³⁹ Un.org. (2017). United Nations Official Document. [online] Available at: [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1718\(2006\)](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1718(2006)) [Accessed 13 Nov. 2017].

addition, the Council demanded the return of the DPRK to the NPT through another **Resolution (S/RES/1874/2009** ⁴⁰).

The sequel took place in February 2013 when Kim Jong-un, then newly-risen in power, conducted his first nuclear test as leader – this was the **third nuclear test** of the DPRK. The test was far larger than earlier experiments, with officials estimating that the bomb was between six and seven kilotons. In response to these actions, the United States moved some missile defense equipment and nuclear-capable stealth bombers to South Korea. John F. Kerry, then Secretary of State, warned that North Korea would have no chance in a military showdown with the United States. In the wake of the test, the Security Council once again moved to tighten sanctions, extending an asset freeze to individuals and organizations helping Kim. Luxury goods were also put under sanctions once again through a Security Council **Resolution (S/RES/2094/2013** ⁴¹). What should be underlined at this point is that by that time there were few sanctions left to deploy.

The **fourth North Korean nuclear test** came on January 2016. Kim said the explosion came from a miniaturized hydrogen bomb and called it a “spectacular success.” The Security Council bounced back with one more unanimously adopted strict **Resolution (S/RES/2270/2016** ⁴²). All Member States were obliged to suspend scientific and technical cooperation involving persons or groups officially sponsored by or representing the DPRK except for medical exchanges. The Council also decided that all Member States should take steps to restrict the entrance to their territory of members of the DPRK’s government, while sanctions imposed through previous resolutions were once again highlighted.

Despite the reaction of the international community, though, North Korea was not willing to conform. Pyongyang conducted its **fifth nuclear test** in September 2016 – a test which was ten times stronger than a test that the country would have been able to conduct a decade before. United States’ President at that time, Barack Obama, convinced the United Nations to ban countries from importing North Korean coal, while the Security Council passed one more **Resolution** ⁴³ in which the Council strongly condemned the missile launch in general.

The last – up to November 2017 – nuclear test – **sixth North Korean test** – took place on the 3rd of September 2017, when Pyongyang stated it had tested a thermonuclear weapon (hydrogen bomb). The United Nations Security Council met in an open emergency meeting on the 4th of September 2017, at the request of the United States of America, South Korea, Japan, France and the United Kingdom. The result of this meeting was **S/RES/2375/2017** ⁴⁴. This resolution has a part concerning the Maritime Interdiction of Cargo Vessels that may transfer goods in the DPRK. Furthermore, all joint ventures with DPRK entities or individuals are prohibited unless they are allowed by the UNSC. The last part of this Resolution is the political one, in which the Security Council underscored the fact that all measures taken are not targeting the welfare of North Korean people and that the Council is prepared to strengthen the sanctions providing that DPRK does not comply with the objective of denuclearization.

As regards, now, the relations of the DPRK and the USA, tensions between these states have intensified after the election of Donald Trump as the US president on November 2016. Threats have been exchanged; President Trump has warned that North Korea’s nuclear activities will

⁴⁰ Un.org. (2017). United Nations Official Document. [online] Available at: [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1874\(2009\)](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1874(2009)) [Accessed 13 Nov. 2017].

⁴¹ Un.org. (2017). United Nations Official Document. [online] Available at: [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2094\(2013\)](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2094(2013)) [Accessed 13 Nov. 2017].

⁴² Undocs.org. (2017). S/RES/2270(2016) - E. [online] Available at: [http://undocs.org/S/RES/2270\(2016\)](http://undocs.org/S/RES/2270(2016)) [Accessed 14 Nov. 2017].

⁴³ Un.org. (2017). United Nations Official Document. [online] Available at: [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2310\(2016\)](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2310(2016)) [Accessed 14 Nov. 2017].

⁴⁴ Un.org. (2017). United Nations Official Document. [online] Available at: [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2375\(2017\)](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2375(2017)) [Accessed 14 Nov. 2017].

be met with “fire and fury”. Moreover, in a bellicose first address to the United Nations general assembly Trump threatened to totally destroy North Korea, if forced to defend their selves or their allies. In response, North Korea issued an unusually specific and provocative warning, threatening to send four missiles toward Guam while ridiculing Trump for spouting "a load of nonsense."

In addition, during the visit of Donald Trump in China (November 2017), Kim Jong-un demanded that “old lunatic Donald Trump is kicked out of the White House”. Moreover, DPRK’s leader stated that "Trump, during his visit, laid bare his true nature as destroyer of the world peace and stability and begged for a nuclear war on the Korean peninsula." On the other hand, Donald Trump said about North Korea; "The weapons you are acquiring are not making you safer, they are putting your regime in grave danger."

The exchange of so serious threats between the leaders of the USA and DPRK, two countries possessing nuclear weapons, should concern the entire international community. It is a global problem, which requires global response.

To conclude, given his statements and general attitude towards other nuclear-capable countries and towards the international community as a whole, it does not seem likely that Kim Jong-un is willing to start the process of denuclearization demanded by the UNSC. The Council itself, though, as a guard of the international peace and security, as well as a supporter of non-proliferation, should consider its future moves and actions as regards the situation in the DPRK.

5. Points to be addressed

- Is the existing legal framework efficient or is it necessary to further enhance it in order to effectively address the issue?
- What measures should be taken in order to prevent the further proliferation of nuclear weapons?
- How can the situation in DPRK be efficiently dealt with?

6. Conclusion

To conclude, it is true and evident that nuclear weapons, as a technological success, could easily constitute – as confirmed from many historical examples – a global threat to humanity. The nuclear weapon has definitely changed the course of history. It ended wars, (World War II), prevented The Cold War and started them (the war in Iraq). The country with the most and the biggest nuclear weapons becomes immediately the most fearsome might on the global stage, but at the same time the weapon has only ever been used properly once. Nuclear science may have a lot of benefits, but only if humans and member states have the knowledge to make a wise use of them and not to exploit them in a deadly and catastrophic manner. Research into the field could solve the energy crisis and more. Which path shall humanity choose ⁴⁵?

“All war is a symptom of man’s failure as a thinking animal”- John Steinbeck.

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