

Special Political and Decolonization Committee

Letter from the Chairs

Dear Delegates,

We would like to warmly welcome you to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee at IPMUN 2024 and express our gratitude towards you for joining us for the four days of the conference. We hope that all of us will have a great time and a successful debate in the two days of committee sessions. As you make preparations for the conference, we ask you to not only look at the study guide but also look through the citations to find sources that can deepen your research. Nevertheless, we hope that you will read through the study guide carefully and that it will be able to guide you and help you prepare for the conference. We are super excited to meet you all in December, and if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to message either one of us! Mwah.

-Jurek and David

Addressing the Territorial Dispute Over the Region of Kashmir

Introduction and History

The Kashmir area includes Jammu, the Kashmir Valley, Ladakh, and the Siachen Glacier area. The newly established India and Pakistan both wanted control over and claimed the region in 1947 following the end of British rule, after which a conflict began between the 2 sides. The states in the region were left to choose if they wanted to be a part of Pakistan or India. The leader of Kashmir and Jammu, Maharaja Hari Singh, decided to remain independent so as to not upset the Muslim or the Hindu people. Pakistan therefore attempted to persuade Maharaja Hari Singh to join them, however because of the inability to decide, Muslim League agents encouraged mass revolts and armed conflicts which led to Maharaja Hari Singh joining India under the condition that India would support him militarily and economically, as well as Kashmir maintaining political independence.

Because both India and Pakistan still claimed the region a conflict broke out between the 2 sides, which was followed by India requesting UN intervention. The UN suggested for a plebiscite to take place along with a ceasefire before the plebiscite. Resolution 47, dictating these terms was accepted by India but rejected by Pakistan. Furthermore, India believed it had a legal right to the regions and believed that the plebiscite would only reinforce that belief.

Another attempt was made at an agreement, which stated that Pakistan would withdraw its troops first, after which India would follow, however, neither side liked this proposal since

India wanted Pakistan to take the blame for the conflict and Pakistan did not believe India would withdraw its forces.

Finally, in 1949 a ceasefire line, the Line of Control, was established. Obviously, this line would not be able to stop future conflicts. After the Line of Control was established, many other conflicts broke out, with the major ones being the 1965 Indo-Pakistani war, the 1971 Indo-Pakistani war, and the 1999 conflict in Kargil. It is important to keep in mind that along these major conflicts many other armed insurgencies, separatist movements, and skirmishes took place, killing thousands, and affecting even more people.

China also plays a role in this conflict, however, a more indirect one. Even though China has very little control over the area they still played a role in the conflict, originally supporting Pakistan over India in the conflict. China controls around 15% of the territory, with India controlling around 55%, and Pakistan 30%.



Key terms:

PLEBISCITE:

A vote in which the people of a state, region, or country express their views on an important decision, usually regarding the future of the said state, after which a government can take appropriate action depending on the outcome of the vote. For example a referendum.

LINE OF CONTROL:

An informal border between India and Pakistan that is not recognized but still acts as a border. It is guarded by the military.

INSTRUMENT OF ACCESSION:

The Jammu and Kashmir Instrument of Accession is a legal document executed by Maharaja Hari Singh, which stated that Maharaja's state would be allowed to become part of the Dominion of India.

TWO-NATION THEORY:

The two-nation theory states that Muslims differ from Hindus in terms of religious, cultural, and social and they must be able to establish an independent Muslim state in which they can practice religion freely and live according to their religious identities.

STANDSTILL AGREEMENT:

The standstill agreement was signed by the newly formed dominions of India and Pakistan. It stated that all administrative arrangements, existing between Britain and the state would be unchanged between India or Pakistan and the princely state until new arrangements were made.

TRACK I DIPLOMACY:

Track I diplomacy refers to official government diplomacy, conducted by official representatives of a state. They can take place bilaterally or multilaterally. For example, most of the UN work falls under Track I diplomacy.

TRACK II DIPLOMACY:

Track II diplomacy is a less formal method of diplomacy, conducted by non-state people, such as citizens in a conflict area. Usually, mediators for Track II diplomacy include people who work outside of the Track I process, however, it can also include professionals like judges or arbitrators. Track II diplomacy aims to provide a calmer, and safer manner of diplomacy in which people aren't afraid to express their views.

Timeline of events

1947: Britain's rule ends, creating the Hindu majority India, and the Muslim majority Pakistan.

1947: The Maharaja of Kashmir signs the treaty of accession with India after Pakistani tribal attacks, leading to the outbreak of war between India and Pakistan over the Kashmir area.

1951: Elections in Jammu and Kashmir backed accession to India, making India deem a referendum unnecessary. Pakistan and the UN disagree and want to hold a referendum.

1953: Pro-Indian authorities arrest the prime minister of Jammu and Kashmir, after which a new government ratifies accession to India.

1957: The constitution of Indian-controlled Jammu and Kashmir deems the area as part of India.

1950s: China slowly takes control over Aksai Chin.

1962: China gains full control over Aksai Chin after defeating India in a short war.

1965: War between India and Pakistan breaks out, ending in a ceasefire and original positions.

1971: Bangladesh Liberation War

1972: Another Indian-Pakistani war ends with the Simla Agreement. Line of Control is created.

1984: India takes control of Siachen Glacier. Pakistan repeatedly fails to take back control.

1987: India accuses Pakistan of creating insurgencies after disputed elections, sending troops over the Line of Control. Pakistan denies this.

1990s: Insurgencies continue and violence escalates in Jammu and Kashmir. Violence against civilians increases.

1999: India and Pakistan go to war after Pakistani militias cross the Line of Control. India fights back and accuses Pakistan. Pakistan denies.

2010: Major protests erupt in Jammu and Kashmir. Indian army kills a demonstrator.

2011: Amnesty is given to protestors who threw stones at police. 2000 unidentified bodies are found near the Line of Control. Later, India kills 3 Pakistani soldiers.

2014: Pakistan and India exchange strongly-worded warnings after violence in Jammu and Kashmir which killed 14 people.

2016: A curfew is enforced. Schools, banks, and shops remain closed, sparking mass protests and many deaths. India carries out "surgical strikes". 25 schools burn in Indian-controlled territory. Violence increases significantly.

2017: Thousands of people defy curfew in protest, and violent clashes continue. Militants attack Hindu pilgrims in the worst attack since 2000.

2019: India strips Jammu and Kashmir of their special status which gave the area significant autonomy.

Prior Solutions

India appealed to the UNSC for a resolution to the conflict, after which Resolution 47 was passed in April 1948, calling for a cease-fire, however, an actual cease-fire only happened in January 1949. In this case, both India and Pakistan failed to arrive at a proper agreement due to different interpretations of the resolution. In August 1948, the UN attempted a two-step de-escalation of the conflict, however, the resolution was rejected by Pakistan.

Furthermore, India then required the withdrawal of both countries, regarding Pakistan as an aggressor. Pakistan was unhappy with this and wanted an equal status for both countries, and UN mediators wanted the same thing. No withdrawal of troops happened in the end, as no agreement could be reached between the two countries, outlining another UN failure.

There has also been the Chenab formula. This proposed a plebiscite in the Kashmir Valley and proposed splitting Jammu and Kashmir into two sides. In December 2006, the Pakistani president told an Indian TV channel that Pakistan would give up Kashmir, if India agreed to certain peace proposals, including a phased withdrawal of troops, self-governance for locals, and no changes in the borders of Kashmir.

Additionally, there have also been track II attempts at conflict resolution, one of the major ones being the Neemrana dialogue in 1990. The interaction took place between former army personnel, former diplomats, and NGO workers. Similarly, there were numerous other track II diplomacy attempts by several initiatives and organizations. In total more than 12 highly recognised track II groups have worked on the issue. Despite this, their success is hard to determine as they do not have any real power, and can only recommend courses of action, however track II talks have definitely had a major impact on a potential resolution of the conflict.

Country Specifics/ Country Policies:

Republic of India:

India strongly believes that the Kashmir region is a part of India, however Manmohan Singh, prime minister of India until 2014, stated that he was willing to grant autonomy as long as it was in line with the Indian constitution. Furthermore, India stands by the idea that the Instrument of Accession of the State of Jammu and Kashmir to the Union of India signed in 1947 is not reversible, and they do not accept the idea of a two-nation theory.

Because of the large amount of diversity in India, more views have developed, such as India accusing Pakistan of waging a proxy war in order to create instability. Moreover, according to the state government of Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan is trying to spread misinformation and negative propaganda about India.

Lastly, India has accused Pakistan of human rights violations, on the basis that people in the Pakistani area of control are denied their liberties, as well as lack of political representation. These claims were backed up by India referencing reports made by human rights organizations.

Islamic Republic of Pakistan:

Pakistan believes that the area belongs to them, and believes that the outcome of this conflict should be decided by the people of Kashmir. Pakistan's claims to the disputed region are based on the rejection of Indian claims to Kashmir. Pakistan stands by the idea that India used brute force to suppress the population. This claim is backed up by the constant insurgencies and unrest, which Pakistan justified as Kashmir wanting to be part of Pakistan or become independent.

Additionally, Pakistan believes that India violated the terms of the Standstill agreement, which was designed to maintain the status quo. Along with this Pakistan has accused India of ignoring UN resolutions and disregarding international law.

Similar to India, Pakistan has also accused India of human rights violations such as rape and murder of innocent people. Officially, India stated that all of the people killed were either armies or independent militias.

People's Republic of China:

China supports Pakistan on this issue, however, their main stance is that the Aksai Chin is an integral part of China and does not accept it as being part of any other region. China also disputes Kashmir's borders with Tibet at multiple locations. Furthermore, China resolved all its border issues with Pakistan in the 1963 Sino-Pakistan Agreement. In short, China does not accept the borders of the princely state of Kashmir and Jammu and is mainly on the side of Pakistan.

United States of America:

The United States of America has had a similar policy for a long time. They believe that the conflict should be resolved through peaceful negotiations and agreements between India and Pakistan. Similarly, the US also believes that the opinion of the people living in the area should be taken into consideration before taking any action. The US' main wish is for peace talks to happen.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:

The United Kingdom has a similar stance to that of the United States. They believe that negotiations between the two sides should take place peacefully. The UK also supported the United Nations in its decisions. Dominic Raab, the then Foreign Secretary, said "The dispute between India and Pakistan in relation to Kashmir is fundamentally for them to resolve, as recognized in UN Security Council resolutions and the Simla agreement".

Additionally, the UK has recognized and emphasized the lack of human rights in the Kashmir region. They agreed with and backed human rights organizations and have stood by their findings.

Russian Federation:

The Russian Federation has been a supporter of India. Their good relationship comes from India refusing to comment on the war in Ukraine. India and Russia have enjoyed a long- lasting friendship in which neither side criticized the other too much. Furthermore, Russia has used its veto power in the UN Security Council in order to support India on certain issues, such as resolutions to intervene in Kashmir. Most importantly, Russia is one of the biggest suppliers of weapons to India, which is why their relationship is on good terms.

State of Israel:

Israel has stated that it will never support Pakistan on the issue. However, relations between India and Israel are not perfect either. Most countries in the Middle East support Pakistan because they are Muslim, however, Israel has a different stance. While Israel has an embassy and consulates in India, and they also maintain trade relations to a certain extent, India has not acknowledged Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Nevertheless, it could be said that Israel supports India more than it does Pakistan since Pakistan and Israel have never had formal diplomatic relations.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea):

Both the DPRK and India have embassies in each other's countries and have maintained growing trade relations, however, those were cut through UN sanctions. India believes that the Korean peninsula should be peacefully reunited as one. In the past India and Pakistan had stronger relations.

Similarly, North Korea has had economic and diplomatic relations with Pakistan since the 1970s. There have also been allegations of nuclear assistance to North Korea by Pakistan, as well as the 2002 scandal involving those nations.

Islamic Republic of Iran:

While Iran has wanted both India and Pakistan to ease tensions, they mostly put the blame on India. The Iranian president has said that the Kashmir issue "has never had a military solution", while also supporting the interest of Kashmiri Muslims. Pakistan has also warned India to prevent any confrontations with Muslims. In short, Iran mainly supports Pakistan because both of the countries are Muslim.

Questions to consider for the position paper:

- ✳ Is my country actively involved in the discussed issue? Has it been involved in disputes in the past?
- ✳ Is my country supplying a country involved in the dispute with arms or other important, valuable resources?
- ✳ Is my country actively trading with countries involved in the dispute?
- ✳ Has my country condemned or supported either of the sides? Has it condemned the discussed issue as a whole?

- * What are my country's relations with the topic discussed? Which side would it be more likely to support?
- * What is your country's stance on the topic?
- * Does your country have a history of condemning either side of the conflict, or the conflict itself? If so, in what ways?
- * Are there any policies your country has implemented that ensure the advantage of a side?
- * How has your country dealt with this conflict, or similar ones, in the past?
- * Are there any human rights organizations that your country has funded or supported?
- * Has your country discussed potential ways to solve the Kashmir conflict?

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A large, faint watermark logo for IPMUN 2024 is centered in the background. It features a circular emblem with a laurel wreath border. Inside the circle, the text 'IPMUN' is written in a large, bold, serif font, and '2024' is written below it in a smaller, similar font.

Reinforcement of the non-proliferation treaty and renewed
nuclear disarmament efforts

Introduction and History

On 16 July 1945, the Trinity Test was conducted. This was the first-ever detonation of a nuclear weapon. Less than a month later, on August 6, the nuclear bomb would be used in practice – to destroy Hiroshima. Three days later, Nagasaki would follow. The United States has been developing a nuclear weapon since 1942 when the threat of the German Reich was at its greatest. However, the USA wasn't the only country attempting to create this weapon. The Nazi scientists were hard at work with their *Wunderwaffe* – a wonder weapon capable of destroying entire cities at once. They were too late. The Soviet Union mobilized its army and pushed the Eastern Front back. By 1944 it was clear that the situation was hopeless for the Third Reich. However, in the Pacific, the Japanese threat to the USA persisted – which is where the nuclear bomb has seen its two and only ever actual uses.

Yet the American advantage and the ability to influence the world with the threat of nuclear weapons didn't last long. By 1949 the Soviet Union also developed its nuclear weapon of mass destruction. Furthermore, many historians consider this development, the two of the world's largest countries owning nuclear weapons, as the start of the Cold War. The United Kingdom followed suit, developing its nuclear weapon and conducting the first test in 1952. France conducted the first nuclear weapon test in the Algerian desert in 1960. The People's Republic of China, with the help of the Soviet Union, tested its first nuclear weapon in 1964. The rapid armament of so many countries with such a deadly weapon capable of wiping out millions of lives at once meant that escalation was inevitable. In 1962, the world lived through some of the most stressful days in human history. The crisis, lasting for 13 days, known as the Cuban Missile Crisis, or the Caribbean Crisis, was perhaps the closest the world has been to a nuclear war. Following the Crisis, it became evident that to prevent nuclear war, solid steps must be taken.

The idea of a nuclear non-proliferation treaty was first created by Frank Aiken, the foreign minister of the Republic of Ireland in 1958. Following the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Eighteen Nation Committee on Disarmament (ENCD), created by the UN in 1961, has been increasingly active in trying to create a treaty limiting the usage of weapons of mass destruction.

Between 1965 and 1968, the ENCD drafted and amended the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of

Nuclear Weapons, which is the groundwork document for limiting nuclear weapons development. On the 1st of July, 1968, the Republic of Finland became the first country to sign

the treaty. The treaty was then ratified by nuclear powers like the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, and the United States. France and the People's Republic of China acceded to the treaty

in 1992, meaning that the treaty would be ratified or acceded to by all the nuclear powers recognized by the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The NPT came into effect on the 5th of March 1970. The treaty lasted for 25 years before a conference was held in 1995, where all the signatories proclaimed to extend the treaty indefinitely, expressing their hope for a new period of history with an end to conflict and an era where issues would be solved democratically rather than through military means.

Meanwhile, India and Pakistan also developed their nuclear weapons, with India conducting the first nuclear weapon test in 1974, and Pakistan following in 1983. These two countries, however, are not recognized as nuclear powers by the NPT and have not become signatories to the treaty either. The State of Israel, suspected to have nuclear weapons, however not admitting possession officially, also is one of the four countries to never become a signatory of the NPT. The NPT saw another crack in the wall when the Democratic People's Republic of Korea announced its withdrawal from the treaty in 2003 following its first-ever nuclear test. Following the announcement, numerous nations, mostly NATO members and its partners, as well as supranational bodies sanctioned the DPRK. Most notably, the UNSC Resolution 1718, which demanded the DPRK to cease nuclear testing, and embargoed some arms and luxury goods.

The early first decade of the twenty-first century, however, still enjoyed relative peace in Europe, with the exception of the Yugoslavian War. It, however, was motivated by the desire to bring about independence to the former Yugoslav states, rather than expansionist aims. However, 14 years into the new century, in February of 2014, Russian troops entered and annexed the Crimean Peninsula, and soon invaded parts of the Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts, creating puppet states, definitely interrupting the peace in Europe. The quasi-war state in Ukraine ended in February of 2022, when the Russian Federation launched an all-out attack on Ukrainian territories, making it the largest war effort in Europe since the Second World War. As a nuclear power, Russia has made threats to use nuclear weapons in Ukraine. The relative peace would soon crumble in the Middle East, when the Palestinian militant group, Hamas, launched an attack on the State of Israel on October 7, 2023. As a state suspected of possessing, but not openly admitting to possessing nuclear weapons, Israel has not made any threats regarding using such weapons.

Another great step towards nuclear disarmament was taken in 2017, when on the 7th of July, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was adopted. This was a far more radical measure than the NPT, as it aims to disarm and destroy all nuclear weapons and halt any further development. The treaty has a total of 93 signatories, including 70 parties. None of the signatories, however, are countries that own nuclear weapons. Most signatory countries are in Africa, South America, and the Southeast Asia region. The only European countries to become parties to the treaty are Austria, Ireland, San Marino, Vatican City, and Malta. The treaty entered into force on 22 January 2021.

Overall, the situation regarding nuclear non-proliferation requires immediate attention. The Non-Proliferation Treaty is being forgotten, as global stability gradually decreases. With Belarus hosting Russia's nuclear weapons, Iran's ongoing development of nuclear weapons, as well as Poland's expressed interest in hosting American nuclear warheads, the efforts of disarmament lay in crumbles. The Special Political and Decolonization Committee is tasked with reviewing the Treaty of Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and bringing forth an effective and lasting resolution that would promote renewed disarmament of weapons of mass destruction, and rebuild the ideals carried by the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Key terms

WMD(Weapon of mass destruction) - Weapon that is capable of causing great damage to both artificial and natural structures **NPT(Non-Proliferation Treaty)** - officially the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, an international treaty which aims to decrease nuclear armament and prevent the increase of nuclear weapons, promoting peaceful usage of nuclear energy **ENCD(Eighteen Nation Committee on Disarmament)** - A committee consisting of 18 nations, Canada, Italy, United Kingdom, France, United States, Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Romania, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Burma, Sweden, Nigeria, United Arab Republic, India, Mexico, Ethiopia and Brazil, created in 1961, tasked with finding ways to decrease the spread of nuclear armaments, the creator of the original NPT. **Strategic arms** - weapons that are created and meant to damage and destroy the opponent's military infrastructure, production means, and economic potential **Tactical arms** - weapons that are used to destroy specific targets within a battlefield **Kilotons** - a unit of measurement of explosive powers. 1 kiloton is equivalent to 1,000 tons of TNT. Nuclear weapon power is expressed in kilotons. The Little Boy bomb had a yield blast of 15 kilotons. The Tsar Bomba has a yield blast of 50,000 kilotons. **TNPW(Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons)** - an international treaty that aims to stop development and calls for a complete elimination of nuclear arms. **DEFCON(Defense Readiness Condition)** - An alert system consisting of 5 levels used by the United States Armed Forces to denote the severity of military circumstances. The level rises as the severity increases, where DEFCON 5 is the most peaceful, while DEFCON 1 signals the outbreak of the nuclear war.

No First Use Policy - The No First Use policy is a policy used by some nuclear powers, which states that those countries will not use nuclear weapons unless attacked with nuclear weapons first, meaning they would only use nuclear weapons in retaliation.

Timeline of events

16 July 1945 - Trinity Test, first nuclear weapon detonation

6 August 1945 - The bombing of Hiroshima

9 August 1945 - The bombing of Nagasaki

29 August 1949 - The Soviet Union tests its first nuclear bomb

3 October 1952 - The United Kingdom tests its first nuclear bomb

29 July 1957 - The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is founded

1958 - Frank Aiken launches the idea of a nuclear non-proliferation treaty

13 February 1960 - The first French nuclear test is conducted

March 1960 - The Ten Nation Committee on Disarmament is convened

21 December 1961 - The Eighteen Nation Committee on Disarmament is convened under UN resolution 1721 (XVI), replacing the Ten Nation Committee on Disarmament

16-29 October 1962 - Cuban Missile Crisis, the United States raised the DEFCON level to 2 on October 24 for the Strategic Air Command

16 October 1964 - The People's Republic of China tests its first nuclear weapon

1 July 1968 - The NPT is created, Finland becomes the first signatory

5 March 1970 - The NPT comes into effect

18 May 1974 - India conducts its first nuclear test

1983 - Pakistan conducts its first subcritical nuclear test

1992 - France and China accede to the NPT

May 1995 - The Review Conference in New York prolongs the NPT indefinitely

2003 - The Democratic People's Republic of Korea withdraws from the NPT

9 October 2006 - The Democratic People's Republic of Korea announces it has conducted its first nuclear weapon test.

7 July 2017 - The TNPW is sealed

22 January 2021 - The TNPW comes into effect

22 February 2022 - The Russian Federation launches an attack on the territory of Ukraine, the biggest war effort in Europe since World War Two

Important Country Specifics

People's Republic of China

China became a nuclear power in 1964 and is recognized as such under the NPT. While China has mostly adhered to the NPT and kept its nuclear arsenal to a minimum, in recent years, there has been a significant increase in the number of warheads possessed by China, making China the third largest nuclear power in terms of the number of warheads possessed. In August 2023, Director-General Sun Xiaobo reaffirmed that China has a No First Use policy and that it will not use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon countries. However, with the recent tensions between China and Taiwan, with China increasing its military activity in the Taiwan Strait, China is gradually abandoning its neutral policy. This and increased Chinese armaments could suggest that China is preparing for a conflict, meaning nuclear weapons could be potentially used.

French Republic

The French Republic developed its nuclear weapons under the government of Charles De Gaulle, in the 1960's. While being a part of NATO, and being recognized as one of the five nuclear powers under the NPT, France's nuclear weapons are completely independent of NATO, and are only for the defense of the French Republic, rather than all of NATO. This is because of the French policy, which aims to distance France from NATO and keep nuclear weapons as a sovereign tool for the defense of France. However, France follows a similar policy of deterrence as the US and the UK, with the President of the Republic, as the head of state, having the authority to launch the weapon. As France holds its nuclear weapons separately from NATO, to protect its own sovereignty, it is unlikely that France would be willing to abandon its nuclear arsenal.

Republic of India

India is one of the four countries possessing nuclear weapons that is not an accessor to the Non-Proliferation Treaty. India furthermore has shown its unwillingness to join the NPT, as it voted against the United Nations resolution A/RES/52/38, which urged all countries that haven't signed the NPT to accede to it. The reason India is refusing to accede to the NPT is because that would greatly weaken India and leave it vulnerable to Pakistan and China, with whom India is engaged in territorial disputes. The NPT states that only the P5 has the right to hold nuclear weapons. The Indian government therefore believes the NPT is unfair to India, as it needs a deterrence factor against Pakistan and China. However, India, like other nuclear powers, has upheld the No First Strike policy since it became a nuclear power.

Islamic Republic of Iran

Iran ratified the NPT in 1974, before the Iranian Revolution, when it was still ruled by the Pahlavi dynasty. As of now, Iran is still a ratifier of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. However, as Iran has its own nuclear program, attempting to develop its own nuclear weapon, it may have to back out of the NPT eventually, as possession of nuclear weapons by countries other than the P5 is against the Treaty. It is very unclear what Iran aims to do with nuclear weapons when it develops one. While Iran assures that its nuclear program serves peaceful purposes, some argue that the nuclear weapons could be used against Israel.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is the only country to have first ratified and later withdrawn from the NPT. The country, known for its authoritarian regime and persistent criticism of human rights violations, withdrew from the NPT shortly after announcing its first

nuclear weapon test in October 2006. This was met with widespread opposition from all around the world, with sanctions imposed by a multitude of nations, mostly partners or members of NATO, as well as intergovernmental bodies such as the UN and the European Union. The United Nations Security Council has passed Resolution 1718, which along with demanding a cessation of nuclear tests, also imposed sanctions on certain luxury goods and arms on North Korea. However, even DPRK's allies, Russia and China imposed certain sanctions in response to North Korea's aggressive nuclear policy. The DPRK's desire to possess nuclear weapons can be motivated by the quasi-war state with South Korea, as the Korean War, while *de facto* ending hostilities on July 27, 1956, with an armistice, has never been converted into a formal peace treaty. This difficult situation is likely what motivates the North Korean desire to own and develop nuclear weapons.

State of Israel

The State of Israel is one of the 4 countries which did not accede to the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The State of Israel has a very ambiguous position regarding nuclear armament. Israel is not a nuclear power *de iure*. However, *de facto*, The State of Israel possesses at least 80 nuclear warheads, even if it does not officially deny nor admit having nuclear weapons. This may be because Israel admitting to be a nuclear power could harm its relationship with the United States. Currently, Israel is the only state to “possess” nuclear weapons in the Middle East, giving it a powerful tool to fend off possible attacks and intimidate the neighboring states that have tense relations with Israel, such as Syria, Lebanon, or Iraq. Due to this advantage, it is highly unlikely that Israel would support nuclear disarmament, even in spite of their nuclear ambiguity policy.

Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Pakistan, similarly to India, is not a signatory of the NPT, due to similar reasons. Because the NPT only outlines the P5 as nuclear powers, it would force Pakistan to get rid of its nuclear weapons. Because of the dispute with India, Pakistan keeps a nuclear arsenal as a deterrence factor. Pakistan's nuclear doctrine is further motivated by the possibility of an attack from India. Pakistan believes that, given India's superior manpower and larger amount of weaponry, in the case of a war, Pakistan would be at a disadvantage, making the possession of nuclear weapons the only advantageous factor. Pakistan's Prime Minister stated that it will use “any weapon in its arsenal to defend itself” (Dixit 65).

Russian Federation

The Russian Federation holds possibly the largest nuclear weapon reserve in the world. Russia ratified the NPT, and generally follows the outlined terms.

Russia has received its nuclear weapons from the Soviet Union, which was the second-ever country to develop a nuclear weapon. The Russian Federation also received a significant number of nuclear weapons from Ukraine and Kazakhstan, following the Budapest Memorandum. However, initially, after the Soviet Union dissolved, the Russian Federation did not follow the Soviet No First Strike policy. The Russian Federation later brought back its No First Strike policy.

In June 2020, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a new doctrine for the Russian Armed Forces, called the Basic Principles of the Russian Federation's State Policy in the Domain of Nuclear Deterrence, which essentially confirms the deterrence factor of nuclear weapons, and reaffirms the No First Strike Policy. However, there is an ambiguous end to section 17 of the document, which states that the Russian Federation would use nuclear weapons "in the event of aggression against the Russian Federation with the use of conventional weapons when the very existence of the state is in jeopardy." ("Basic Principles of State Policy of the Russian Federation on Nuclear Deterrence"). This suggests that Russia would use nuclear weapons even on countries that do not have a nuclear arsenal in "extreme cases".

Together with the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, in his speech, Vladimir Putin described Ukraine as a "threat to the very existence of our state and its sovereignty". While The Russian government did not make open threats to use nuclear weapons in Ukraine, the Russian nuclear policy could easily be interpreted in a way that would make it justifiable (from the Russian point of view) to use nuclear weapons in Ukraine. Given this and Russia's hostile nature, it is unlikely Russia would want to make any attempts at nuclear disarmament.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The United Kingdom was the third country in the world to develop nuclear weapons, with assistance from the United States. Due to its close relationship with the US, and as a part of NATO, the United Kingdom shares a similar policy of deterrence with its nuclear weapons. The United Kingdom states that it is committed to creating a world free from nuclear weapons and that it fully adheres to the terms of the NPT. The only person authorized to launch a nuclear strike in the United Kingdom is the Prime Minister. The United Kingdom also claims that it would authorize a nuclear strike to protect its NATO allies. While to some extent the UK has a slightly more supportive position regarding nuclear disarmament than the USA, as it believes in a strife for a nuclear-weapon-free world, it believes that as long as there is a threat of expanded armament from countries such as the Russian Federation, the UK will keep its nuclear arsenal in a policy of deterrence.

United States of America

As the country to produce the first-ever nuclear bomb, and the only country to actually use nuclear weapons against another country, the United States has a defined policy regarding the use of nuclear weapons. The United States claims to only use nuclear weapons to deter a previous nuclear strike on the US or its allies. The policy of the United States is one of defense, and never making the first move when it comes to nuclear weapons. The United States further vows not to use nuclear weapons against countries that are recognized as non-nuclear powers under the NPT. Lastly, the United States, as a country with one of the highest nuclear arsenals in the world, is very unlikely to abandon its nuclear weaponry anytime soon. The US believes that no weapon could replace the “unique deterrence effects that nuclear weapons provide.” (“2022 Nuclear Posture Review Fact Sheet | - US NUCLEAR DETERRENCE STRATEGY AND POLICY”), therefore highlighting the importance of nuclear capabilities and believing that getting rid of nuclear weapons would weaken the USA and make them defenseless against another nuclear attack.

Questions to consider for the position paper:

- Does my country support the development of nuclear weapons?
- Does my country host foreign nuclear weapons? Would it like to do so?
- Is my country a nuclear power? If so, is it recognized under the NPT as a nuclear power?
- Has my country been a nuclear power before? If so, what made it lose/give up its nuclear weapons?
- Is my country currently developing nuclear weapons?
- Is my country an accessor to the NPT? If not, why?
- Is my country a signatory or a party to the TNPW? If not, why?
- Does my country condemn the possession of nuclear weapons?
- Does my country have significant uranium supplies? If so, what are they used for/where are they exported to?

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