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INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY
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IAEA BACKGROUND GUIDE

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Director's Welcome Letter

Dear delegates,

I am honored to welcome you to AUSMUN 2024, where you will play an essential role in shaping global discourse about world issues. This year's conference is set to be a platform for innovation, collaboration, and meaningful dialogue. Here we will explore global issues, analyze the complexities of the same, and propose solutions that satisfy the varying perspectives of countries in the international community.

It is important to remember that you think critically, engage in constructive debate, and seek to achieve common ground with your fellow delegates. At AUSMUN, we encourage you to approach this experience with an open mind and a commitment to finding a solution. This conference is not only a simulation but also an opportunity for you to develop skills that benefit your academic, professional, and personal lives. It is a chance to form connections with individuals who share a similar passion for global issues and diplomacy. I encourage you to make the most of this unique experience and to challenge your limits by thinking beyond the ordinary. Together, we will all contribute to the legacy of excellence that AUSMUN is known for.

I look forward to meeting you all and witnessing the remarkable contributions each of you will make to our conference.

Welcome to AUSMUN 2024, and let us embark on this enriching journey together.

Warm regards,

Sarvagya Sharma
Director of Research
AUSMUN 2024



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Moderators' Welcome Letter

Dear distinguished delegates,

We extend a warm welcome to you as we embark on yet another year of AUSMUN, in the International Atomic Energy Agency. It is indeed an honor to moderate such an intense, thrilling, and enjoyable committee, which will hopefully be filled with engaging discussions, debates, and resolutions. As your moderators for this conference, we are truly dedicated to providing you with a memorable experience, especially in a committee such as the IAEA - where controversy and heated debate will always be prominent throughout the committee.

We have put our best efforts into creating this background guide, which serves as a valuable resource for you to refer to throughout your research. Keep in mind that we emphasize the importance of carrying out your own individual research pertaining to your given country. Utilize this as a guide to your research, a starting point in which you can gain a general idea regarding the topics at hand.

We consider it our responsibility to ensure that you are confident and enthusiastic prior to the conference, so do not hesitate to contact us about any concern or inquiry you may have.

Best of Luck!

Your Moderators,

Zaina Ismail and Aseel Hawamdeh



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Meet the Chairs

Zaina Ismail:

Hello delegates! My name is Zaina, and I am currently a sophomore studying Computer Science at the American University of Sharjah. As a Palestinian, I am greatly fascinated by world affairs and politics, which is why I value MUN as an ideal creative outlet. To me, it is the perfect escape, as it is completely unrelated to my major and my studies. Having intense discussions, debating, and challenging different points of view has always been a passion of mine. I feel incredibly thrilled to be chairing this conference for the second time, and I hope that our chairs will make your experience worthwhile - I cannot wait to meet you all!

Aseel Al Hawamdeh:

Hello! My name is Aseel and I am a sophomore at the American University of Sharjah studying industrial engineering. My MUN journey started in tenth grade as the topic of politics has always been an interest to me. Ever since then, MUN has served as an outlet that allowed me to voice my insight on major world problems. I am ecstatic to be chairing AUSMUN this year, and most importantly I am excited to meet you all and hopefully have wonderful debates in committee. Best of luck delegates!



*** Zaina on the right, Aseel on the left

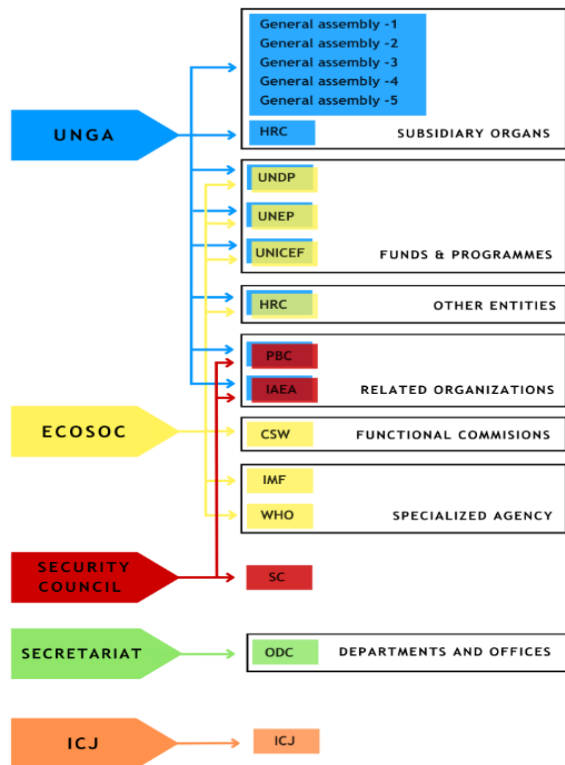


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Brief About the Committee

During the early 1950s, nuclear development was on the rise. New methods to use nuclear substances were discovered, resulting in the rise of unease and distress among the international community. Hence, The International Atomic Energy Agency was formed in 1957 with the aim of developing nuclear safety standards, aiding members in planning and using nuclear science, and inspecting the member's commitment to the set safety standards. The IAEA is strongly connected to nuclear technologies and their applications, whether as a weapon or an economic tool. Hence, the foundation of the committee was based on the promotion of peaceful nuclear applications and ensuring these applications with mandates and laws. Now, working alongside the 193 members of the United Nations, and 178 member states of the IAEA, the IAEA promotes safe, secure, and peaceful nuclear technologies (IAEA, n.d.).

This diagram visually represents the UN system and corresponds to AUSMUN. It reflects the relationships between committees and clearly demonstrates the committee's position, significance, and powers as defined under the UN charter.





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Function of Committee

Voting Procedure

The International Atomic Energy Agency must make crucial decisions with a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. A majority of the members present and voting shall decide on other questions, including the determination of further categories of questions to be determined by a two-thirds majority. These questions include The amount of the Agency's budget; The appointment of the Director General; To reconsider a proposal or an amendment that has been adopted or rejected; Decisions of the Board on amendments to proposals that require a two-thirds majority, and decisions on parts of such proposals put to the vote separately; The determination of additional questions or categories of questions to be decided by a two-thirds majority.

Topic 1: Addressing Nuclear Security Challenges in Light of the Growing Global Nuclear Stockpile

Summary and History

Nuclear security has become a top priority in a world where the global nuclear stockpile is growing at an alarming rate. As governments continue to update their arsenals and, in some circumstances, pursue nuclear weapons in violation of international accords, the mission of preserving nuclear materials and avoiding dissemination to rogue actors becomes more difficult.

The main issue is the possibility of nuclear materials, technologies, or weapons falling into the wrong hands, posing a serious threat to international peace and security. Nuclear weapon proliferation is a direct result of this dilemma, with non-proliferation efforts facing major setbacks. The beginnings of the world's developing nuclear arsenal can be traced back to the mid-twentieth century. The development of nuclear weapons during World War II, as demonstrated by the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs, signaled the beginning of the nuclear age. The subsequent Cold War rivalry between the US and the Soviet Union resulted in a massive increase in nuclear arsenals, laying the groundwork for a decades-long arms race (International Atomic Energy Agency, 2023).

Several causes, including National Security Strategies, have contributed to the creation of an increasing worldwide nuclear stockpile. Many nuclear-armed states have decided to update their arsenals in order to maintain nuclear deterrence capability. This decision is frequently influenced by real or imagined national security considerations. Another aspect was proliferation challenges, such as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Despite international accords such as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), certain countries have pursued nuclear weapons, calling non-proliferation efforts into question. The nuclear program of North Korea is a prime illustration of this defiance. Furthermore, developments in nuclear technology have made it easier for countries to build and sustain nuclear arsenals. The spread of nuclear weapon expertise and resources has heightened the risks associated with the growing stockpile.

Discussions and actions pertaining to tackling nuclear security concerns in the context of a growing global nuclear stockpile revolve around a few key topics. They cover all of the issue's facets, including non-proliferation initiatives, diplomacy, disarmament, and worries about international security. International treaties and agreements that specify the decrease or abolition of nuclear weapons are known as nuclear disarmament accords. Nuclear strategy, which is frequently based on deterrence and defensive principles, is a country's approach to the use and deployment of nuclear weapons (International Atomic Energy Agency, 2016).

The dynamics of international relations may be impacted by the increase in nuclear

stockpiles, which is just one of the worldwide ramifications of addressing it. It can affect negotiations on a range of topics, such as trade, climate change, and regional wars. It can also strain diplomatic relations and breed mistrust among governments. Furthermore, even on a small scale, a nuclear war would have disastrous humanitarian effects. It might lead to a significant number of fatalities, long-term effects on the environment and health, and a significant number of population displacements with ramifications for international humanitarianism. With more nations acquiring nuclear weapons and accumulating nuclear weapons worldwide, the efficacy of international governance and non-proliferation regimes, such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), may be compromised. It becomes increasingly difficult to keep these regimes credible and effective. Furthermore, it becomes harder to advance disarmament initiatives as the world's nuclear arsenal expands. If the nuclear-armed states do not demonstrate progress in reducing their arsenals, non-nuclear-armed governments may become more skeptical of international agreements like the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

Discourse on the Issue

The issue at hand has far-reaching consequences that affect diplomacy, world peace, security, and human survival itself. Many treaties and agreements have been developed to help control the growing stockpile. However, some countries refuse to cooperate. Addressing nuclear security concerns in the face of rising global nuclear stockpiles is critical in today's geopolitical scenario. Nuclear stockpiles are increasing, posing a serious threat to international peace and security and breaking fundamental provisions of the United Nations Charter. It jeopardizes the UN Charter's essential principles, particularly Article 2(4), which prohibits the use of force in international relations (United Nations, 2023). The mere existence of a rising nuclear stockpile raises the potential of nuclear conflict, which violates the Charter's goal of maintaining global peace.

The impact of stakeholders on the matter varies. Nations having nuclear arsenals are immediately impacted since their security plans and resources are inextricably linked to their nuclear capabilities. Non-nuclear-armed states, on the other hand, are indirectly affected since they incur the risks of nuclear conflict and suffer difficulties in persuading nuclear-armed governments to disarm. Nations with no nuclear ambitions are the least affected, but their participation in the global conversation is critical since they frequently advocate for disarmament and contribute to the stability of international security. Not only does manufacturing, harbouring, threatening to use nuclear weapons, and testing nuclear weapons violate the UN charter, but it is also illegal according to Article 1 and the treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons (Stakeholder Engagement: Nuclear Energy, 2016). The threat or use of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, which have the potential to destroy human life, is inconsistent with the right to life and may constitute a crime under international law

indiscriminately and catastrophically (NTI, 2022).

Past International Organization (IO) Actions & Latest Developments

In the context of a rising global nuclear stockpile, international organizations, and significant governments have been actively engaged in tackling nuclear security challenges. The United Nations (UN) has played a critical role in tackling this critical issue. The United Nations (UN) has helped address nuclear security concerns through several committees such as the Disarmament and International Security Committee (First Committee) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Previously, the UN took numerous significant steps, principally through the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), to limit the spread of nuclear weapons and urge disarmament. The NPT is an important agreement aimed at preventing nuclear weapon proliferation and supporting disarmament that has been signed and ratified by major nuclear-armed states such as the United States, Russia, China, and the United Kingdom (United Nations, 2023b).

Nonetheless, despite previous achievements, the challenge of addressing nuclear security has evolved. North Korea's nuclear goals have defied international attempts, raising tensions. North Korea's recent missile tests and nuclear bomb development have concerned the international world. Furthermore, major nuclear-armed governments have begun massive modernization of their nuclear arsenals, prioritizing the development of improved delivery methods and technology, raising fears of a new arms race. Because of the integration of digital technologies into nuclear infrastructure, new vulnerabilities have emerged, rendering nuclear facilities vulnerable to cyberattacks, which is a growing issue. Consequently, deteriorating relations between the US and Russia have had an impact on arms control treaties, such as the New START treaty, which focuses on restricting strategic nuclear weapons (SIPRI, 2023).

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action was made to control Iran's nuclear stockpile. Iran is reportedly drifting further and further away from the agreements made in 2015, according to the IAEA. Currently, Iran's entire stockpile of enriched uranium exceeds JCPOA restrictions by 18 times and has extremely alarming quantities of uranium enriched by up to 5, 20, and 60% (The History of Nuclear Proliferation, 2023). These actions, which violate Iran's JCPOA commitments regarding both enrichment levels and quantities of enriched material, have no plausible civil rationale. If Iran does not make a decision to resume full compliance with its JCPOA obligations, this scenario will only get worse in the near future. Additionally, Iran has dramatically expanded its output of uranium which has been enriched up to 5%, paving the way for future HEU manufacture (The History of Nuclear Proliferation, 2023).

The committees and organizations participating have the mandate to promote

disarmament, prevent nuclear proliferation, and improve nuclear security through international agreements and monitoring procedures. Recent actions at the UN General Assembly and First Committee meetings included discussions on the growing nuclear stockpile, the NPT's review process, and the importance of continuing dialogue between nuclear-armed and non-nuclear-armed states to address the evolving challenges of nuclear security. Furthermore, the IAEA continues to monitor and inspect nuclear sites to guarantee that non-proliferation agreements are followed. Despite obstacles, worldwide efforts to solve the critical issue of nuclear security and promote global stability persist.

Questions that the Committee and Resolutions Should Address :

1. How can countries of the IAEA collaborate to minimize and control the nuclear stockpiles of countries such as Iran and North Korea?
2. What other United Nations agencies can be referred to for aid?
3. Should every country have the freedom to grow a nuclear stockpile?
4. How can challenges such as nuclear weapon threats and wars be avoided?

Suggestions for Further Research:

Subtopics:

- Explore the dangers of cybersecurity and Nuclear Infrastructure.
- Effects of Nuclear Triad and Modernization.
- The Iran Nuclear Deal.

Links:

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Timeline of the Major Events

1950- the IAEA was formed with the goal of overseeing developments in nuclear technology and monitoring the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

1961- The first nuclear power treaty passes which calls for negotiations to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons to additional states

1965- The US submits its first proposal on how to stop an all-out nuclear war from happening

1967- Israel secretly obtains nuclear weapons

1974- IAEA publishes a list called the trigger list which contains items that could be used in making nuclear weapons.

1974- Iran's Comprehensive Safeguard Agreement enters into force

1975- Conferences start being held every 5 years to review the implementation of the treaties

1991- Iraq is forced to eliminate its secret nuclear program which was revealed after the Gulf War.

1993- The IAEA declares North Korea in noncompliance with its safeguards obligations and refers Pyongyang to the UN Security Council.

2003- North Korea announces that it is leaving the NPT and Iran is suspected of hiding nuclear activity and not reporting to the NPT. Libya also announced that it is abandoning its nuclear program after the Iraq war. Additional Protocol signed and implemented voluntarily by Iran (Davenport, 2019).

2010s- The UK announces a plan to reduce its current nuclear arsenal, The United States withdraws from the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty.

2020s- The Biden administration sees arms control as a tool that can advance security and stability. It will seek to engage Russia on further nuclear arms reductions and other

measures.

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Topic 2: The Status of Nuclear Programs in the MENA Region

Summary & History

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA), a region characterized by rich resources and geopolitical relevance, is a focal point in regard to nuclear programs. For decades, concerns surrounding the MENA region's nuclear capabilities have arisen. This can be traced back to the 1950s, when nations such as Egypt, Israel, Iraq, and Iran began their pursuit of nuclear weapons. The idea of the initiation of nuclear programs in the Middle East and North Africa has raised many concerns until this day, regarding regional stability, peace, and the potential for an arms race. An arms race is defined as a competition between countries in their acquisition of weapons of mass destruction ("Arms Race", 2009).

Despite this, there are motives behind the MENA's desire to take part in nuclear proliferation, which include political rivals, security threats, and global influence. There are numerous implications for such nuclear programs, both for the region and the rest of the world. However, it can also be argued that the Middle Eastern nations do possess the right to pursue nuclear programs, considering that nations in the West receive global acceptance for their acquisition of nuclear weapons. According to Arab Center Washington DC, "For oil exporting countries such as Saudi Arabia, expansion into nuclear power conserves resources that are more profitably exported rather than used for domestic energy generation. For the UAE, nuclear energy can serve the domestic market but can itself be an exportable resource in the form of electricity". This demonstrates the various reasonings why it should be acceptable for Middle Eastern countries to pursue such programs, specifically ones with a peaceful political history."

Discourse on the Issue

The status of nuclear programs in the MENA region is considered a significant issue with immense ramifications. Given its potential to destabilize a region that already suffers from political and economic unrest, it is of utmost concern. Particularly, the spread of nuclear weapons in the region does violate the UN charter, which emphasizes global peace and security. The act of acquiring nuclear weapons raises concerns surrounding a nuclear arms race - which contradicts the fundamental principles of the UN. Certain nations feel threatened and anxious about the idea of nuclear weapons arising in the MENA. However, there have been suspicions surrounding Israel's nuclear proliferation for years, and this has been overlooked, due to the strategic political ties Israel has with the West.

A prime example of this is Iran, which is known to have been involved in the development of nuclear weapons, and uranium enrichment programs. The first UN sanctions were imposed in 2006 after Iran breached its obligations under the 1970 treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, as reported by the IAEA. After years of negotiations and agreements, the JCPOA was signed by Iran in 2015.

On the other hand, Israel, a country marked by intense controversy due to its hostility and occupation towards the Palestinians, is treated with a stark difference. Israel is not a signatory for the NPT (Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty), and exercises complete nuclear ambiguity. Israel does not face any backlash, threats, consequences, or sanctions, which demonstrates the difference between the attitude towards nuclear weapons in the two countries that lie within the MENA region.

Past International Organization (IO) Actions & Latest Developments

Major countries and international organizations have shown involvement in the nuclear landscape of the Middle East and North Africa. The focal point of these nuclear programs is typically Iran - as Iran is known for its nuclear aspirations and fascinations. The JCPOA, signed in 2015 by some of the most powerful and influential nations, was an action taken to prevent Iran from going any further. After the United States' withdrawal from this agreement, Iran gradually began to violate the terms of this agreement.

The status of nuclear weapons in the MENA is a concern that has been addressed by the UN, especially in the International Atomic Energy Agency, as it monitors and reports nuclear activities. Furthermore, the NPT promotes and pledges towards nuclear disarmament, the only country in the MENA not a part of this treaty being Israel.

The mandate of the committee involves promoting diplomacy and compliance with international agreements to prevent nuclear proliferation in the MENA region. Recent actions have centered on diplomatic efforts to re-engage Iran in compliance with the JCPOA. The challenge remains in finding a balanced and viable solution to ensure regional stability and

prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, requiring sustained engagement and collaboration among stakeholders.

Particularly, the "Nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East" is a resolution that has been addressed and passed by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). This resolutions aim to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, in which countries commit not to possess, manufacture, or acquire nuclear weapons. This is part of a broader effort to enhance regional and global security, prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and reduce the risk of conflict in the Middle East.

Questions that the Committee and Resolutions Should Address

1. How can we verify the MENA region's compliance with the NPT?
2. How can countries in the MENA be encouraged to dedicate themselves to nuclear disarmament?
3. Why is the development of nuclear capabilities in Middle Eastern countries viewed as a concern, whereas it is not perceived as an issue in the case of countries like the USA and Russia?
4. How could the IAEA maintain an unbiased resolution to this issue?

Suggestions for Further Research

- Be familiar with what The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) is, its implications, etc.
- Examine the role of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty
- Explore the different motives for nuclear programs in the MENA region, such as economic benefits, security, etc.
- Examine the role and influence of international stakeholders on these programs

Links:

<https://www.iai.it/sites/default/files/iai0831.pdf>

<https://disarmament.unoda.org/wmd/nuclear/npt/>

<https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/Nuclearweaponswhohaswhat>

<https://merip.org/2008/06/the-growing-danger-of-a-nuclear-middle-east/>

Timeline

1940s-1950s: The MENA region sees the beginning of interest in nuclear technology primarily for peaceful purposes, such as energy and medical applications.

1957: Iran initiates its nuclear program for peaceful purposes with the support of Western countries.

1960: Israel begins its nuclear program with assistance from France. It later becomes a nuclear-armed state but maintains an official policy of nuclear ambiguity.

1968: The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is opened for signatories and is signed by several countries in the region.

1980s: Iraq's nuclear program under Saddam Hussein comes to international attention, leading to the Israeli bombing of the Osirak reactor.

1991: The Gulf War leads to inspections and the dismantling of Iraq's nuclear program.

2000s: International concerns grow about Iran's nuclear activities. Iran's uranium enrichment program becomes a significant point of contention.

2003: Libya announces the dismantling of its nuclear program.

2015: The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) is signed between Iran and the P5+1 countries, limiting Iran's nuclear activities in exchange for sanctions relief.

2018: The United States withdraws from the JCPOA, leading to increased tensions in the region regarding Iran's nuclear activities.

2021: Negotiations are ongoing to restore the JCPOA and address concerns about Iran's nuclear program.

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