

Disarmament and International Security Committee



Enhancing International Efforts to Prevent Nuclear Proliferation in the Middle East

-Committee Guide-

Ela Ünlü

-Chairperson-

Gracia Dimitrova

-Chairperson-

Hannah Steiner

-Chairperson-

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

I. Introduction

a. Introduction to the Committee

b. Introduction to the topic

II. Background and Historical Development

III. Key Facts and Statistics

IV. Current Situation in the Middle East

V. Major Parties Involved

a. Iran

b. Israel

c. United States of America

d. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

e. Gulf States

f. United Nations

VI. Past International Actions and UN-Involvement

a. Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)

b. United Nations Sanctions

c. Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)

d. IAEA Monitoring

VII. Current Challenges

VIII. Possible Solutions and Future Approaches

- a. Strengthening Diplomacy
- b. Expanding IAEA Inspections
- c. Supporting International Agreements

IX. Definition of Key Terms

X. Guiding Questions for Delegates

XI. Useful Links

XII. Sources

I. INTRODUCTION:

a. Introduction to the committee:

The Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC) is the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly. DISEC focuses on international peace and security issues, especially topics related to disarmament, arms control, cyber security, terrorism, and weapons of mass destruction.

The committee discusses global security threats and develops recommendations for peaceful international cooperation. Although DISEC resolutions are not legally binding, they strongly influence international diplomacy and future United Nations action.

One of DISEC's most important responsibilities is preventing the spread of nuclear weapons. Nuclear proliferation remains a major concern because nuclear conflict could have catastrophic humanitarian, political, and environmental consequences.

The Middle East is one of the most sensitive regions concerning nuclear security due to long-lasting conflicts, regional rivalries, and political instability.

b. Introduction to the topic:

Nuclear proliferation refers to the spread of nuclear weapons, nuclear technology, or weapons-related materials to additional states or non-state actors.

The Middle East has experienced decades of political instability, wars, and military competition. Because of these tensions, several countries fear that nuclear weapons could destabilize the region even further.

International concern mainly focuses on Iran's nuclear program and the broader balance of power in the region. Many states worry that if one country develops nuclear weapons, neighboring countries may attempt to do the same. This could create a dangerous nuclear arms race.

The international community has therefore attempted to reduce proliferation risks through diplomacy, sanctions, treaties, inspections, and international cooperation.

II. BACKGROUND AND HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT:

The issue of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East became increasingly important during the Cold War. During this time, several countries around the world began developing nuclear programs, either for peaceful energy production or military purposes.

Israel is widely believed to possess nuclear weapons, although the government follows a policy of “nuclear ambiguity” and has never officially confirmed its arsenal.

Iran’s nuclear program began in the 1950s with international support under the “Atoms for Peace” initiative. However, international concern increased in the early 2000s after reports revealed undeclared nuclear facilities and uranium enrichment activities.

In response, the United Nations Security Council imposed sanctions on Iran. Diplomatic negotiations later resulted in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in 2015. Under this agreement, Iran agreed to limit parts of its nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief.

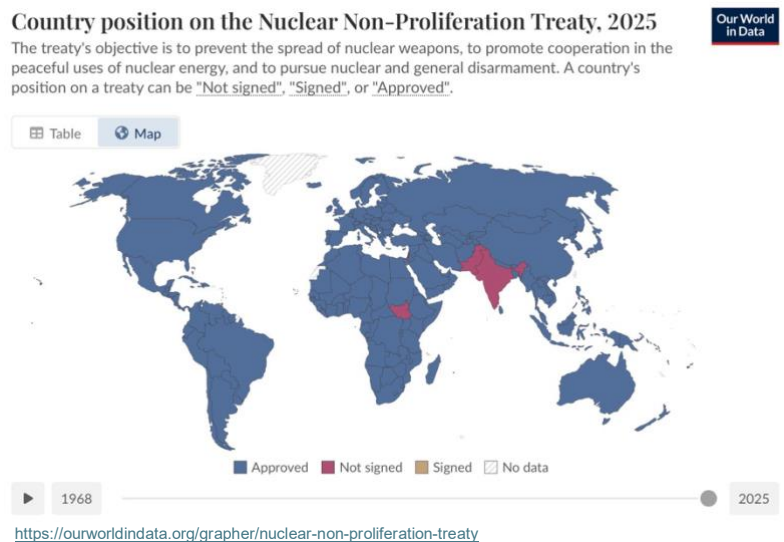
However, disagreements between major powers weakened the agreement in later years, causing uncertainty about the future of nuclear diplomacy in the region.

IV. Key Facts and Statistics

Category	Information
Treaty against nuclear proliferation Year NPT entered into force	Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) 1970
Main monitoring organization	International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
Countries involved in JCPOA	Iran, China, France, Germany, Russia, UK, USA
Estimated global nuclear warheads	Around 12,000
States in the Middle East with advanced nuclear programs	Iran and Israel

Important Statistics:

- More than 190 countries are members of the NPT.
- The IAEA conducts inspections in multiple nuclear facilities worldwide.
- Iran possesses large uranium enrichment capabilities.
- Nuclear weapons could affect millions of civilians in the case of conflict.



III. CURRENT SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST:

The Middle East currently faces severe political tensions and regional instability. Conflicts in Syria, Yemen, Iraq, and Gaza have increased insecurity throughout the region.

Iran continues uranium enrichment activities, which many countries view with concern. Iran argues that its nuclear program is peaceful and necessary for energy and scientific development. However, some Western countries and regional powers fear that Iran may eventually develop nuclear weapons capabilities.

At the same time, relations between Iran and Israel remain extremely tense. Israel views a nuclear-capable Iran as a major threat to national security.

Another concern is the possibility that extremist groups could gain access to radioactive materials during periods of instability. This could increase the risk of nuclear terrorism.

The international community remains divided between supporting diplomacy and demanding stricter sanctions.

In addition, the conflict between Iran, Israel, and the United States has intensified in recent years. Israel and the United States argue that military actions against Iranian nuclear facilities are necessary to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons. Iran, however, maintains that its nuclear program is peaceful and views such actions as violations of its sovereignty.

IV. MAJOR PARTIES INVOLVED:

a. Iran

Iran plays a central role in the nuclear debate because of its uranium enrichment program. The Iranian government insists that its program is designed for peaceful civilian purposes.

b. Israel

Israel considers Iran's nuclear activities a serious threat and supports strong international pressure against proliferation.

c. United States of America

The United States has been deeply involved in sanctions, negotiations, and diplomatic initiatives concerning Iran's nuclear activities. It has also played a central role in the recent tensions and military confrontations with Iran, arguing that preventing Iran from developing nuclear weapons is a key security objective.

d. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

The IAEA monitors nuclear facilities, conducts inspections, and ensures compliance with international agreements.

e. Gulf States

Countries such as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are concerned about regional power balances and security risks.

f. United Nations

The United Nations promotes peaceful diplomacy, sanctions, inspections, and international cooperation to reduce proliferation risks.

V. PAST INTERNATIONAL ACTIONS AND UN INVOLVEMENT:

a. Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)

The NPT was signed in 1968 and remains the most important international agreement concerning nuclear weapons. Its goals are:

- Preventing the spread of nuclear weapons
- Promoting peaceful nuclear energy
- Supporting nuclear disarmament

b. United Nations Sanctions

The United Nations Security Council imposed several sanctions on Iran because of concerns regarding uranium enrichment and nuclear transparency.

c. Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)

The JCPOA was signed in 2015 between Iran and major world powers. Iran agreed to reduce parts of its nuclear program in exchange for economic relief.

d. IAEA Monitoring

The IAEA regularly publishes inspection reports and monitors nuclear facilities to ensure compliance with international agreements.

VI. CURRENT CHALLENGES:

Several major challenges continue to prevent progress in nuclear non-proliferation efforts.

Political Distrust

Many countries in the region deeply distrust each other, making negotiations difficult.

Regional Wars and Instability

Ongoing conflicts increase military tensions and security fears.

Verification Difficulties

Inspectors do not always receive full access to nuclear facilities.

Economic Sanctions

Although sanctions create pressure, they can also worsen humanitarian and economic conditions.

Risk of an Arms Race

If one country develops nuclear weapons, neighboring countries may attempt to build similar programs.

Terrorism Risks

Extremist groups may attempt to acquire radioactive materials or attack nuclear infrastructure.

VII. POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS AND FUTURE APPROACHES

a. Strengthening Diplomacy

Countries should continue negotiations and encourage peaceful international dialogue.

b. Expanding IAEA Inspections

The international community could provide more support for verification and inspection systems.

c. Supporting International Agreements

States should strengthen commitment to treaties such as the NPT and future diplomatic agreements.

VIII. DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS:

Nuclear Proliferation

The spread of nuclear weapons or nuclear technology to additional actors.

Uranium Enrichment

A process used to increase the concentration of uranium isotopes.

IAEA

The International Atomic Energy Agency is responsible for nuclear inspections.

JCPOA

The 2015 Iran Nuclear Deal.

Nuclear Arms Race

Competition between states to develop larger or more advanced nuclear arsenals.

Sanctions

Economic or political penalties imposed on countries.

XI. GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR DELEGATES:

- How can the international community prevent further nuclear proliferation in the Middle East?
- Should sanctions remain the primary international response?
- How can peaceful nuclear energy programs be protected while preventing weapons development?
- Should the Middle East become a nuclear weapon-free zone?
- What role should the United Nations and IAEA play in future negotiations?
- How can trust between regional powers be improved?

X. Useful Links:

- [United Nations Disarmament Affairs](#)
- [International Atomic Energy Agency \(IAEA\)](#)
- [UN Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons](#)
- [Arms Control Association](#)
- [United Nations Security Council](#)

XI. Sources:

- United Nations Reports
- International Atomic Energy Agency Reports

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- Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Documents
- Arms Control Association Publications
- International Security Research Papers
- United Nations Security Council Resolutions