

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the fourth Metro Detroit Model United Nations Conference. Over the past four years we have worked tirelessly to develop an exciting and innovative Model United Nations format that challenges our delegates in a competitive and inclusive environment. We work year-round to ensure that our staff members are as prepared as possible to ensure that all of our delegates can participate in our debates. Moreover, the topics that you will discuss have been carefully selected for their global importance and the larger questions that they ask. When reading through the following background guide, be sure to analyze and evaluate what larger questions are being provoked by the topic and what commentary these larger questions make about the current international system. Finally, if you have any questions, be sure to reach out to your chairs on the email address provided on their committee page.

We look forward to welcoming you in January,

Mitchell Dennis

Secretary General of the Metro Detroit Model United Nations IV

Ad-Hoc Committee Topic A 0

Establishing Stricter Arms Control Agreements

Defining Arms Control

Arms control vs. Disarmament vs. Non-proliferation

Arms control is a broad term that usually means mutual agreements between states regarding the restraints on the research, manufacture, or the levels of troop and weapon system use.

Disarmament refers to the elimination or abolishment of weapons. This can be done unilaterally in the hope that others will follow suit or reciprocally as an agreement between states. Non-proliferation usually applies to weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons. It is the act or attempt to prevent the proliferation and development of these weapons.¹ While all of these terms are similar, it is important to note their differences and refrain from using them synonymously.

Nuclear Weapons

Nuclear weapons are deadly arms that have the ability to destroy entire cities and can have lasting effects on future generations, the environment, and the rest of the world. Nuclear weapons have been used twice in warfare—in 1945 in the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. About 22,000 are reported to still be located in countries throughout the world and

COUNTRY	FIRST TEST	MOST RECENT TEST	TOTAL TESTS	ESTIMATED WARHEADS
United States	1945	1992	1,054	7,200
Russia	1949	1990	715	7,500
United Kingdom	1952	1991	45	215
France	1960	1996	210	300
China	1964	1996	45	260
India	1974	1998	6	110-120
Pakistan	1998	1998	6	120-130
North Korea	2006	2016 (claimed)	3	Fewer than 10
Israel	No confirmed test	No confirmed test	No confirmed test	80
Iran	No confirmed test	No confirmed test	No confirmed test	0

Sources: Federation of American Scientists, CIA World Factbook, Nuclear Threat Initiative, U.S. Census Bureau

over 2,000 nuclear tests have been conducted to date.² The United States and Russia hold 93% of the total global stockpile of nuclear weapons. Although the Cold War has ended, nuclear weapons are still considered a threat for many reasons. For example, accidental or unauthorized weapons continue to pose a risk because of the large stockpiles that are still present. Also, many countries with small arsenals of nuclear weapons, including Pakistan and India, are

actively engaged in regional conflicts. Other nations like Iran and Syria are also suspected of violating their nuclear safeguard commitments and secretly pursuing nuclear weapon capabilities.

¹ “Arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation in NATO.” *North Atlantic Treaty Organization*. http://www.nato.int/cps/in/natohq/topics_48895.htm#.

² “Nuclear Weapons.” *United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs*. <https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/>.

Terrorism is another reason nuclear weapons are an enormous threat to the international community. There are over 1,800 metric tons of enriched uranium and plutonium stored in hundreds of sites across 25 countries that can be used to develop nuclear weapons. Some of these sites are poorly secured, making them vulnerable to terrorists looking to create a nuclear weapon. Similarly, cyberterrorism can be an issue because command and control systems can be hacked to initiate a catastrophe.

Some nations like Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and South Africa have voluntarily dismantled their nuclear weapons. Also, the number of nuclear weapons the United States and Russia hold has significantly dropped since the Cold War through diplomacy and cooperation. Moreover, world powers has recently reached an agreement with Iran to implement a monitoring program to prevent Iran does not build a bomb.³

Chemical and Biological Weapons

Modern day use of chemical weapons began in World War I when both sides of the conflict used poisonous gas to inflict pain and death on the opposing side. These weapons consisted of chemicals that were put into weapons like grenades and artillery shells. Such chemical weapons include chlorine, mustard gas, and phosgene, a choking agent. Due to these chemical weapons, 100,000 agonizing deaths occurred during World War I. Since then, chemical weapons have caused more than one million casualties worldwide.⁴ To address this issue, two notable agreements were created: The Geneva Protocol and the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Biological weapons are deliberately released pathogens or toxins. One notable use of biological weapons was by the Japanese on China during World War II. For example, he Japanese poisoned over 1,000 water wells in villages throughout China. The anthrax letters that were sent to media and government offices following the terrorist attack that occurred in the United States of September 11th, 2001, is another example.⁵

Missiles

Missiles are used as a delivery system to transport other weapons, such as nuclear weapons, to their targets. While there are other types of delivery systems including combat aircraft, drones, trucks, and ships, missiles have increasingly taken center stage on the international discussion of weapons of mass destruction. There are currently no legally binding multilateral agreements dealing with the issue of missiles.⁶ Currently, over 30 countries are able to produce missiles either independently or in collaboration with other countries. The widespread sale of short range Soviet “Scud” missiles in the 1970s and 1980s led to developing countries learning how to reproduce, modify, and improve these missiles; with some countries learning how to produce their own missiles based off the Soviet “Scud”

³ “The Nuclear Threat.” *Nuclear Threat Initiative*. <http://www.nti.org/learn/nuclear/>.

⁴ “Chemical Weapons.” *United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs*. <https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/chemical/>

⁵ “The history of biological warfare.” *National Center for Biotechnology Information*. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1326439>.

⁶ “Missiles.” *United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs*. <https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/missiles>

missiles. One dilemma that the international community faces in regard to addressing the issue of missiles and their proliferation is the fact that many of the components and processes necessary to create missiles also have peaceful purposes. Many countries use rocket programs as a guise for developing and testing technologies for offensive military use. For example, in 2012 the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) launched a rocket stating that its purpose was to put a satellite in orbit although many countries speculate otherwise. Another related challenge in addressing this issue is the commercialization of technologies like GPS that have helped to improve cruise missile programs around the world.⁷

Enacting and enforcing arms control agreements

Arms control agreements allow war to maintain its viability as a tool for national policy. The objectives of enacting arms control agreements include: reducing the risk of war, reducing the cost of preparing for war, and reducing the damage should occur.⁸ The international community has a mixed record when it comes to creating and enforcing arms control agreements. Many countries are incredibly suspicious of limiting the number of missiles that they can have, even if countries with which they do not enjoy favorable relations.

History of the Issue

Numerous multilateral treaties have been established with the central goals of preventing nuclear proliferation and testing, and progressing international nuclear disarmament.

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is an international treaty designed “to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament.” The Treaty entered into force in 1970 and was extended indefinitely in 1995.⁹ There is speculation that certain countries including the United States and Iran have violated the NPT. Additionally, the DPRK withdrew from the treaty and India, Israel, Pakistan, and South Sudan did not ratify it.

Geneva Protocol

Following public outrage, the Geneva Protocol was signed in 1925 to prohibit the use of biological and chemical weapons in warfare. Although it was a step in the right direction, there were a number of shortcomings with the Protocol, including the lack of a prohibition on the development, production, or stockpiling of chemical weapons. Another issue was that many states that signed the Protocol reserved the right to use chemical weapons on states that did not sign the Protocol or as retaliation if chemical weapons were used against them.¹⁰

⁷ “The Delivery Systems Threat.” *Nuclear Threat Initiative*. <http://www.nti.org/learn/delivery-systems/>.

⁸ “The Objectives of the Arms Control Politics.” *UK Essays*. <https://www.ukessays.com/essays/politics/the-objectives-of-the-arms-control-politics-essay.php>.

⁹ “Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.” *United Nation Office for Disarmament Affairs*. <https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/npt/>.

¹⁰ “Chemical Weapons.” *United Nation Office for Disarmament Affairs*. <https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/chemical/>.

Chemical Weapons Convention

The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) was adopted in 1992 after 12 years of negotiations. The CWC is a multilateral agreement that provides for the elimination of chemical weapons.

Biological Weapons Convention

The Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) was the first multilateral disarmament treaty that banned the development, production, and stockpiling of biological weapons. It went into effect in 1975 and has gone under six reviews to further strengthen the BWC with the last Review Conference occurring in 2006.¹¹

New START Treaty

The New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) was signed in 2010 by the United States and Russia to reduce and limit the number of deadly weapons they possess including inter-continental ballistic missiles, heavy bombers equipped to carry nuclear weapons, and other warheads.¹²

Arms Trade Treaty

The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), negotiated for ten years and finally entered into force in 2014, regulates the international trade in conventional arms (small arms, battle tanks, combat aircraft, warships, etc.). This treaty is meant to address the overwhelming violence that occurs because of illegal and poorly regulated arms trade. One weakness of this treaty is that ammunition is not included in its text. Another issue is that some of the largest arms exporters in the world opposed the treaty—the DPRK, Syria, and Iran voted against the ATT while Russia and China abstained.¹³

1996 Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)

The Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty, ratified by 164 nations, bans any and all nuclear weapon test explosions. In 2016, the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization held a special meeting after the DPRK conducted a nuclear test. Also, later that year, both India and Pakistan were urged to sign and ratify the CTBT.¹⁴

UN Security Council Resolution 1540

In resolution 1540, adopted in 2004, the Security Council declared that “all States shall refrain from providing any form of support to non-State actors that attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery, in particular for terrorist purposes.”¹⁵

¹¹ “Biological Weapons.” *United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs*. <https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/bio>.

¹² “The New START Treaty: Central Limits and Provisions.” Congressional Research Service. <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/nuke/R41219.pdf>.

¹³ “UN approves global arms trade treaty—but how effective will it be?” *The Independent*. <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/politics/un-approves-global-arms-trade-treaty-but-how-effective-will-it-be-8558664.html>.

¹⁴ “Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT).” Nuclear Threat Initiative. <http://www.nti.org/learn/treaties-and-regimes/comprehensive-nuclear-test-ban-treaty-ctbt/>.

¹⁵ “UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004).” United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. <https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/sc1540>.

Effectiveness of these treaties

There is a lot of debate regarding the effectiveness of these treaties due to a lack of properly designed studies to evaluate the direct effects and impact of the treaties. For example, studies have shown NPT membership is correlated with nonproliferation but these studies fail to prove that NPT caused said nonproliferation.¹⁶ One argument is that the treaty prevents nations considering going nuclear from actually doing so. Also, many believe the treaty enables the international community to come together to go after unconstrained nations if they decided to pursue nuclear weapons.¹⁷

Arms Control Organizations

While most arms control agreements are reached between nations, rather than negotiated by international organizations, some international organizations do focus on controlling the spread of arms in general, or specific types of arms.

International Atomic Energy Agency

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is one such organization that serves to control the spread of arms; but it focuses on preventing and slowing the spread of nuclear arms. Although the IAEA works to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy and further nuclear technological advancements, it also plays an important role in ensuring that states comply with the NPT.¹⁸ This is a role that is most recently assumed in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, better known as the Iran Nuclear Deal. Under this deal, the IAEA will inspect Iranian enrichment facilities to ensure that they are complying with the rules and regulations stipulated by the agreement.¹⁹ In this way, the IAEA can take a more neutral role to ensure that all sides in an agreement are being fairly monitored.

United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs

The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) was established in 1998 and works to promote disarmament in conflicts throughout the world.²⁰ They assist in disarming countries and armed groups of both weapons of mass destruction, such as missiles and chemical weapons, as well as conventional arms, such as landmines and guns. UNODA is particularly helpful as it unites experts on disarmament strategies from around the world, allowing the organization to help effectively disarm groups and reintegrate armed groups into society so as to prevent future conflicts.

The Current Situation

¹⁶ “Do Arms Control Treaties Work? Assessing the Effectiveness of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.” *International Studies Quarterly*. <http://www.isanet.org/Publications/ISQ/Posts/ID/5171/Do-Arms-Control-Treaties-Work-Assessing-the-Effectiveness-of-the-Nuclear-Nonproliferation-Treaty>.

¹⁷ “Gauging the Effectiveness of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.” NPR. <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4627776>.

¹⁸ “The IAEA Mission Statement.” *International Atomic Energy Agency*. <https://www.iaea.org/about/mission>.

¹⁹ “Monitoring and Verification in Iran.” *International Atomic Energy Agency* <https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/focus/iran>.

²⁰ “About Us.” *United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs*. <https://www.un.org/disarmament/about/>.

Controlling the spread of arms, whether nuclear, chemical, biological, missile, or conventional, is vitally important for the safety and security of citizens around the globe. While there have been some successes on the arms control front in the past several years, such as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), arms continue to be spread throughout the globe and rising tensions between great powers threatens to decrease the future potential for arms control.

Arms Embargoes

Existing conflicts around the world are exacerbated by the easy access to arms. In Yemen, Syria, South Sudan, Libya, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the unrestricted flow of arms has worsened the conflict and killed thousands. While the causes of the surfeit of arms differs in each nation, the effects are remarkably similar. In Libya, arms that were stockpiled by the Qaddafi regime were not properly safe-guarded after the allied intervention in 2011, these weapons, such as anti-tank weapons and mines, fell into the hands of rebels in Libya, contributing to the current instability, and were found being trafficked into neighboring countries, such as Chad.²¹ Additionally, governments who had backed the Libyan rebels gave them arms. These weapons have been found in conflicts in neighboring Mali as well as Syria.²² To make this situation worse, even though an arms embargo was applied to Libya at the time, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates still sold the rebels weapons.²³

The Libya situation is not unique. Currently, mandatory United Nations arms embargoes exist on the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Iran, ISIS and its affiliates, Libya, North Korea, Somalia, Yemen and the Darfur region of Sudan.²⁴ Nevertheless, arms are still finding their way into these countries and embargoes have yet to be placed on other areas, such as the conflicts in South Sudan and Ukraine, and the genocide in Myanmar. In some instances, such as North Korea, the government is improving its weapons capabilities in spite of the arms embargo. It is clear that while establishing an arms embargo is an important step, it is not the ultimate solution to reduce conflict. Until the international community begins to hold arms manufacturers and sellers accountable, it is unlikely that true arms control will be reached.

The New Arms Race

While the autochthonous development of nuclear weapons in North Korea and arms trade to conflict zones represents a major threat to stability, the potential for a new arms race among the United States and Russia could prove much more destabilizing. For starters, the United States and Russia are the two largest arms exporters, with United States earning \$9.9 billion

²¹ “Final report of the Panel of Experts established pursuant to resolution 1973 (2011) concerning Libya.” *United Nations Security Council*. http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_2013_99.pdf.

²² “Libya arms fueling conflicts in Syria, Mali and beyond: U.N. experts.” *Reuters*. <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-libya-arms-un-idUSBRE93814Y20130409>.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ “Arms Embargoes.” *Stockholm International Peace Research Institute*. <https://www.sipri.org/databases/embargoes>.

and Russia \$6.4 billion.²⁵ In this sense, the arms trade is an important economic engine for both countries, employing many people and contributing towards taxes.

However, even beyond this similarity, the antagonistic relationship between the two nations makes arms control a crucial topic. For example, historically most major global arms control agreements were driven by the United States and the Soviet Union, signing most of the major treaties of the late-1900s as well as concluding SALT and START bilaterally.²⁶ These limitations were crucial in slowing the proliferation of missiles and, in some cases, even reducing stockpiles. For example, START I, which was signed in 1991, limited the deployed nuclear warheads by to 6,000 and 1,600 ICBMs.

More recently, however, the cooperation between the United States and Russia on arms control has slowly begun to break down. For example, in 2017 the Russians deployed a cruise missile that violated the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Force Treaty (I.N.F).²⁷ The lack of trust and cooperation in the relationship is particularly dangerous as if the strategic balance that exists between the United States and Russia were to be upset, it could result in a direct conflict with global implication. In 2014, Vladimir Putin brandished the nuclear might of Russia towards NATO amid the beginnings of conflict in Ukraine and an improvement in Russian nuclear capabilities.²⁸ While it could be said that Putin is merely blustering, the Russian nuclear weapon improvements come in the face of the United States' own nuclear upgrades, which will total \$26.8 billion in Fiscal Year 2017.²⁹ These public comments and upgrading of arsenals represent the dire nature of this relationship and the growing lack of agreement on arms control for missile technology and other dangerous weapons that has governed the relationship between these two nations for quite some time.

Case Study

Syrian Civil War

The Syrian Civil War encapsulates the successes and failures of arms control in today's global affairs. On one hand, no mandatory UN arms embargo has been placed on the rebels or the Assad government, with the Security Council only able to impose a mandatory arms embargo on ISIS and its affiliates. However, the arms embargo has not been the most effective on ISIS as it has been able to get weapons from countries such as Turkey, Qatar and Saudi Arabia.³⁰

²⁵ "The 10 countries that export the most major weapons." *Aljazeera*.

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/interactive/2017/02/10-countries-export-major-weapons-170220170539801.html>.

²⁶ "Strategic Arms Limitations Talks/Treaty (SALT) I and II." *United States Department of State*.

<https://history.state.gov/milestones/1969-1976/salt>.

²⁷ "Russia Deploys Missile, Violating Treaty and Challenging Trump." *The New York Times*.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/02/14/world/europe/russia-cruise-missile-arms-control-treaty.html>.

²⁸ "Russia's evolving nuclear strategy and what it means for Europe." *European Council on Foreign Relations*.

http://www.ecfr.eu/article/commentary_russias_evolution_nuclear_strategy_and_what_it_means_for_europe.

²⁹ "U.S. Nuclear Modernization Programs." *Arms Control Association*.

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

³⁰ "Where are the Islamic militants in Iraq getting their weapons? The answer surprised us." *Public Radio International*.

<https://www.pri.org/stories/2014-06-17/where-are-islamic-militants-iraq-getting-their-weapons-answer-surprised-us>.

Additionally, the United Nations has been wholly unable to implement embargoes on the Assad regime given the veto of Russia on the Security Council.

Moreover, the Assad government repeatedly used sarin gas, a chemical weapon; although Assad and Russia blame rebel groups.³¹ It is widely believed that Syria's chemical weapons were created within Syria. This represents a failure of arms control to prevent them from constructing these weapons. However, after the first use of sarin gas in 2013, a deal was struck to remove chemical weapons from Syria. While this might appear to be a success of disarmament, a chemical weapons attack happened again in 2017.³² It is clear that while potential factories of chemical weapons in Syria are being monitored by international groups, the stockpiles themselves must still exist. In this sense, disarmament in Syria has not been a success. Above all, the lack of arms control in Syria, of weapons of mass destruction and small arms, for both the government and non-government groups, such as the rebels and ISIS, greatly contributes to the savagery and destruction of the conflict.

Questions to Consider

- To what extent can lasting arms control be implemented for all types of weapons?
- How can arms control be implemented given its economic importance to many countries?
- How can arms control be effectively implemented so as to prevent countries from developing weapons?
- How can existing arms control regimes, such as mandatory UN arms embargos and existing treaties, be implemented more effectively?
- What lessons should be drawn from previous arms control treaties? What made these treaties effective and how can they be improved?

³¹ "What we know about Syria's chemical weapons." *CNN*. <http://www.cnn.com/2017/04/05/middleeast/syria-sarin-chemical-weapons-explainer/index.html>.

³² *Ibid.*