

The General Assembly Green: Topic B Primary Sources

The storage of nuclear waste and the prevention and clean-up of nuclear disasters

Here are primary sources that your moderator or legal chair thought would be helpful in gaining an understanding of the topic. These are by no means all of the sources available, just sources we wanted to highlight.

Source #1: United Nations Environmental Programme “Safe and Environmentally Sound Management of Radioactive Wastes”

<http://www.unep.org/documents.multilingual/default.asp?DocumentID=52&ArticleID=70&l=en>

This source provides an outline for how to safely manage radioactive wastes and why the issue is important. Specifically, the source includes the logistics of disposing nuclear waste including: financial aspects, and scientific and technological means. The UNEP, as a program of the United Nations, will give delegates a sense of the baseline ideas that the organization has come up with up to this point. Delegates should use this as a base to work off of and to attain a general knowledge about the topic and its possible solutions.

Source #2: International Nuclear Waste Disposal Concepts

<http://www.world-nuclear.org/information-library/nuclear-fuel-cycle/nuclear-wastes/international-nuclear-waste-disposal-concepts.aspx>

This source provides background information about nuclear waste disposal. It is important because it will help delegates to comprehend the disposal of nuclear waste on a global scale. It breaks down different regions and organizations that have developed ideas or suggested programs to address the issue. This is helpful for delegates to gain a better understanding of where the country they represent might fall on the spectrum if they learn what other countries in their region have accomplished (or not accomplished) in the past.

Source #3: Decision of the OECD Council Concerning the Control of Transboundary Movement of Wastes

<http://webnet.oecd.org/oecdacts/Instruments/ShowInstrumentView.aspx?InstrumentID=221&InstrumentPID=217&Lang=en&Book>

This source will give delegates specific amendments that were enacted to manage the movement of nuclear wastes. This specific document provides two coinciding procedures: the green control procedure and the amber control procedure. The appendixes include different categories of waste to be controlled and which categories of waste are subject to which procedures. The incorporation of multiple procedures for different wastes is important because it shows the versatility of solutions to the issue, giving delegates a broader base to form their own solutions.

Source #4: **Report of the Secretary-General: Optimizing the international effort to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster**

http://chernobyl.undp.org/english/docs/a_58_332_e.pdf

Although this report is specific to one nuclear disaster, it can be beneficial for delegates to have an example of a nuclear disaster cleanup. They can use the report to find the strengths of the cleanup effort while also discovering weaknesses that can be improved upon in their resolutions and amendments. The report provides information about ongoing international assistance efforts, which will be important in the formation of resolutions that delegates will be writing. This section includes a multitude of different organizations that are part of the Chernobyl Forum, however many of these organizations would be appropriate as members of any type of nuclear disaster coalition.

Source #5: **General Assembly: Founding Resolution of UNSCEAR**

[http://www.unscear.org/unscear/en/general_assembly.html#Resolution%20913%20\(X\)](http://www.unscear.org/unscear/en/general_assembly.html#Resolution%20913%20(X))

This resolution was submitted the General Assembly (GA); therefore, it can be helpful for delegates to see the ideas that the GA has presented and has approved in the past. This resolution specifically focuses on forming the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR), a scientific committee that investigates problems relating to the effects of ionizing radiation. The website also provides further resolutions from the committee that give more detailed descriptions of the committee's functions and its role in the international community.

Source #6: **United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC)**

<http://www.unocha.org/what-we-do/coordination-tools/undac/overview>

UNDAC is an international organization that helps the United Nations and affected governments in case of an emergency situation. One example of the emergencies they provide aid for is nuclear disasters. This organization could be important for delegates to reference in resolutions as part of their plan to cleanup nuclear disasters. The website provides overview information about the organization, but also more specific information such as their handbook and training courses on common understanding and methods for coordination, information management and assessment for those in the field.