

The Ad-Hoc: Topic A Primary Sources

Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction

Here are the 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: Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

This treaty is the most recent one to be discussed and written by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), but it has not yet entered force. Previous to this, the UNODA had not signed a treaty into force since 1963. It is crucial to thoroughly read and use this treaty since it is so recent and applies to the most current advancements in nuclear weapons. The purpose of the treaty is to prohibit further development, advancement, usage, and deployment of all nuclear weapons and activities. The attached link contains background information, a link to the treaty, and links to General Assembly resolutions concerning nuclear disarmament negotiations.

<https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/tpnw/>

Source #2: UN Security Council Resolution 1540

This resolution was passed in 2004 and is commonly cited in resolutions regarding the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Specifically, this resolution prohibits the states from providing support in any manner to non-state actors that “attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons” for all purposes, but specifically for terrorism. The resolution not only prohibits states from engaging with non-states about these matters, but also mentions specific laws to be adopted and enforced in order to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

[https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1540%20\(2004\)](https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1540%20(2004))

Source #3: The Secretary General’s Mechanism for Investigation of Alleged Use of Chemical and Biological Weapons

This brief fact sheet was published by the UNODA to highlight the investigation process in response to any reports that a member state is engaging in the proliferation of WMDs. It highlights an example of this by discussing the response of the UNODA to the reports filed against the Syrian Arab Republic in 2013. The fact sheet also includes secondary links to more detailed reports about the investigation. Delegates should consider this fact sheet and its hyperlinks when considering investigations into member states.

<https://unoda-web.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/SGM-Fact-Sheet-Jan2020.pdf>

Source #4: Preventing the Further Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction: The Importance of On-Site Inspection in Iraq

This is a lecture by Dr. Hans Blix, who was the executive chairman of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification, and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC). The UNMOVIC was created in 1999 and ended in 2007. This is an important document to look over not only because it discusses the nonproliferation of WMDs, but also because it argues for the right to perform on-

site inspections in a nation that may have WMDs. This might be a point of discussion in a resolution so looking at something published by a committee meant to accomplish this will be beneficial.

<https://www.un.org/Depts/unmovic/ExecChair/BlixVienna.htm>

Source #5: Nonproliferation & Counterproliferation

This document provides the difference between nonproliferation and counterproliferation. Counterproliferation will certainly come up during committee and, therefore, it is important for everyone to know the difference between the two in order to understand the position of their nations. In addition to the difference between the two, the document also lists different methods to accomplish both of them, which are important to understand when it comes to incorporating methods into resolutions.

<https://fas.org/issues/nonproliferation-counterproliferation/>

Source #6: 2019 Global Nuclear Weapons Spending

This document was published by the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). Nuclear weapons are a type of weapon of mass destruction that are often discussed and this is the most recent publication of statistics on the money that has been spent on nuclear weapons. The report also breaks up the money spent by country and details the methodology of each country. It is important to know which nations have invested money into WMDs in order to propel discussion and negotiation.

<https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/ican/pages/1549/attachments/original/1589365383/ICAN-Enough-is-Enough-Global-Nuclear-Weapons-Spending-2020-published-13052020.pdf>