

# CHAMUN BACKGROUND GUIDE 2018

## NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

### **Intro**

According to the United Nations, nuclear disarmament is the gradual reduction and eventual elimination of all nuclear weapons in the world. With international tensions on the rise and nuclear technology at its peak, many fear a nuclear war is inevitable in the years to come. Increased nuclear disarmament is paramount to the de-escalation of international conflict. However, this is no easy task. For years countries have been trying to agree on a solution, but common ground is hard to find. Most countries share different opinions on the best way to tackle this problem. The most extreme opinions come from the nuclear powerhouses. If not all of the major nations in nuclear technology agree on a way to deal with nuclear weapons, tensions will remain high. Any conflict after this point could launch the world into a nuclear war we may not be around to regret.

### **History**

In 1945 the true power of nuclear weapons was revealed. Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, will never fully recover from the destruction brought by the atomic bomb at the end of WW11. During the years previous, the U.S. was desperately trying to learn how to manufacture nuclear weapons before one of the Axis countries did. They were successful. After WW11, our world was launched into the Atomic Era. Both nuclear disarmament and advancement became a top priority worldwide. On January 24, 1946, the UN spoke to this issue and called for the elimination of all nuclear weapons. That attempt at disarmament was not very successful. In 1949, Russia became the second nation to successfully construct and test a nuclear weapon. In 1952, the U.S raised the stakes, testing a hydrogen bomb in the Pacific Ocean 500 times more powerful than the atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki. Within the next 20 years, UK, France, China, India, and Israel also began nuclear tests of their own. This entire nuclear arms race took place during a very hostile cold war. This wasn't a great breeding ground for international cooperation. However, as countries began to realize the power of nuclear technology, disarmament became more important. In 1955, nuclear physicists Bertrand Russell and Albert Einstein published a manifesto warning of the dangers of nuclear war and urging all governments to resolve disputes peacefully. In 1963, the US, UK and Russia put forward a UN treaty titled 'Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water.' In 1968, further action was taken by nuclear powerhouses in regards to disarmament. The 'Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons' who's objective was to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament, was created. This treaty, still relevant today, currently has 191 signatories. In the following years much of the world became nuclear free. Most nuclear countries were in cooperation with the disarmament effort. In 1996, 'The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty', opened for signatures at the United Nations. China, France, the UK, Russia and the US all signed the treaty. However, India said it would not sign the treaty and along with Pakistan continued to conduct nuclear tests. In 2006, The North Korean government announced that it had successfully conducted a nuclear test, becoming the eighth country to do so. In only a 50 years span nuclear weapons had been developed and restricted heavily. Though the problem has been reduced, a ban on nuclear weapons can never be successful unless all countries are on board.

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### **Current**

There is still much international debate about the best way to deal with nuclear weapons; the most recent advancement occurring in 2017. Two-thirds of the world voted to adopt the UN 'Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons'. The U.S, Russia, UK, China and France lead the disarmament campaign. However, India, Israel, Pakistan, and North Korea still refuse to cooperate. Currently, the most serious threat is posed by North Korea. In the past two years they has threatened the U.S with nuclear warfare upon multiple occasions. They are also continuing to improve the range of their ballistic missiles in order to be able to directly attack the Western World. U.S. president, Donald Trump and North Korea's Supreme Leader, Kim Jong Un, have also been personally attacking each other with the looming threat of nuclear warfare. To discuss the disarmament effort, the two leaders participated in a historical meeting in June of 2018. They also signed a document that commits North Korea to work towards "the complete denuclearization of the Korean peninsula" and promises "new relations" between Washington and Pyongyang. This is a step in the right direction, but more cooperation in needed for lasting peace. A resolution needs to be created soon involving all countries to ensure the disarmament efforts are not lost. A United Nations High Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament is set to take place in the coming years to tackle this issue.

### **Questions to consider:**

How can we incentivize all countries to stop the development of nuclear weapons?

How can we create a resolution that ensures international safety?

How can we diminish the threat of nuclear warfare without violence?

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