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Security Council

Background Papers



UN Security Council



Colegio Americano de Torreón Model United Nations (CATMUN)

United Nations Security Council

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Committee Background

Under the Charter, the Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It has 15 Members, and each Member has one vote. Under the Charter, all Member States are obligated to comply with Council decisions. The Security Council takes the lead in determining the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression. It calls upon the parties to a dispute to settle it by peaceful means and recommends methods of adjustment or terms of settlement. In some cases, the Security Council can resort to imposing sanctions or even authorize the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security. The Security Council also recommends to the General Assembly the appointment of the Secretary-General and the admission of new Members to the United Nations. And, together with the General Assembly, it elects the judges of the International Court of Justice.

I. Rising international tensions with the increased testing of nuclear weapons.

History

The first nuclear device was detonated as a test by the United States of America at the Trinity site on July 16, 1945, with a yield approximately equivalent to 20 kilotons of TNT.

In 1963, three (United Kingdom, United States and the Soviet Union) of the four nuclear states and many non-nuclear states signed the Limited Test Ban Treaty, pledging to refrain from testing nuclear weapons in the atmosphere, underwater, or in outer space. The treaty permitted underground nuclear testing. France continued atmospheric testing until 1974, and China continued until 1980. Neither has signed the treaty.

In 1996, the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) was adopted by the UN General Assembly. It strengthened the NPT by prohibiting the development and testing of nuclear weapons, in any environment, for either military or civilian purposes.

Current Situation

Nuclear weapons divert funds from citizens to the production and testing of these possibly world ending devices. A number of multilateral treaties have since been established with the aim of preventing nuclear proliferation and testing, while promoting progress in nuclear disarmament. These include the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests In The Atmosphere, In Outer Space And Underwater, also known as the Partial

Test Ban Treaty (PTBT), and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), which was signed in 1996 but has yet to enter into effect.

In 2009, Resolution 1874 was passed by the Security Council as a reaction to a nuclear test by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The resolution essentially reiterated the points of UNCS 1540, as well as urging the cooperation of the international community in preventing the spread of nuclear weapons and technology, pushing for a more rigorous framework under which to test nuclear facilities for NPT compliance, and most importantly, reinforcing the solidarity of the international community in their stance against nuclear proliferation

Conclusion

Currently, nuclear energy is a great alternative to other sources such as coal or even natural gas. It has low CO₂ emissions and is both, reliable and cheap, also to add onto that nuclear energy is powerful and efficient. It's one of the best energy sources we have come to have. Yet, at the same time, nuclear energy comes with the threat of nuclear weapons and nuclear meltdowns and the risk of having the fate of mankind resting at a push of a button. Also, the risks of having the world plunged into a war or possibly famine are very intense. Many states of both nuclear and non-nuclear variety agree that a total disarmament of nuclear weapons would benefit humanity more than having said weapons. Many treaties have been signed and put into action over this discussion. Having over 100 countries signing these treaties does not guarantee a safe haven for all of humanity, but through cooperation and agreements, a safe non nuclear world might be achievable.

Work Cited

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

<http://www.un.org/en/sc/about/>

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

<http://www.icanw.org/>

II. The development of norms for dealing with malware and international cyber attacks.

History

Wars are no longer going to be just fought by soldiers who carry guns, assisted by planes that drop bombs and conduct airstrikes. Nowadays, we should also worry about mouse clicks from half a world away that might unleash carefully weaponized computer programs that disrupt or destroy critical industries like utilities, transportation, communications, and energy. Such attacks could also disable military networks that control the movement of troops, the path of jet fighters, and the command and control of warships. However, cybersecurity issues are not only related to the war industry. Actors associated with business, politics, the media or just ordinary citizens are also affected by the still-considered new global threat; as the Executive Chairman of Google, Eric Schmidt said, “in our digital age, the issues of cybersecurity are no longer just for the technology crowd; they matter to us all.” Therefore, it is clear how cybersecurity issues affect literally everyone, from politicians trying to ensure online freedom and fight cybercrime, to lawyers and ethicists building new frameworks for right and wrong (Singer and Friedman, 2013).

Current Situation

Nowadays, the UN has not set a definition of what constitutes cyber warfare yet, so there are no “cyber Geneva Conventions” at the moment. However, the UN has been trying to implement significant guidelines on international cybersecurity for the better part of the last 15 years. There were two symbolic resolutions passed in 2003 and 2004:

- 1- Resolution 57/239 of 2003: Calls for more awareness and responsibility by capable nations to prevent, detect, and respond to cybersecurity threats.

2- Resolution 58/199 of 2004: Invites member nations with national cybersecurity strategies to share and assist other member nations in their efforts to establish similar strategies.

In 2010, a report by the UN Group of Governmental Experts determined that cybersecurity threats are among the most serious challenges of the 21st century

Conclusion

“Cyber affairs” are very relevant for peace maintenance and world security. In the current climate, nations are still lacking knowledge when it comes to Cyber security issues, and the scope of Cyberspace is not a clear concept for individuals yet. Therefore, nations and international institutions should work on better preparation for Cyber incidents. The world is definitely confronting new scenarios of conflict, and unfortunately not all countries are prepared to assess such threats.

Work Cited

<http://www.seimun.es/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/UNSC-SEIMUN-2017-Study-Guide-PDF.pdf>