



PRESIDIUM *for* **CHANGE**

FOR A BETTER WORLD

PRESIDIUM MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE 2024

UNGA

BACKGROUND GUIDE



**UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**



AGENDA:

Recognizing the potential benefits for International efforts to prevent Nuclear Proliferation and the latest advancements

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Greetings,

We welcome you all, in the capacity of the members of the Executive Board of 9th Edition of Presidium MUN taking place on 18th & 19th October 2024. Since this conference shall be a learning experience for all of you, it shall be for us as well. Our only objective shall be to make you all speak and participate in the discussion, and we pledge to give every effort for the same.

How to research for the agenda and beyond? There are several things to consider. This background guide shall be different from the background guides you might have come across in other MUNs and will emphasize more on providing you sources where you find matter for your research than to provide you matter itself, because we do not believe in spoon-feeding you, nor do we believe in leaving you to swim in the pond all by yourself. We promise that if you read the entire set of documents, you shall be able to cover 70% of your research for the conference. The remaining amount of research depends on how willing are you to put in your efforts and understand those articles and/or documents. So, in the purest of the language we can say, it is important to read anything and everything whose links are provided in the background guide.

What to speak in the committee and in what manner? The basic emphasis of the committee shall not be on how much facts you read and present in the committee but how you explain them in simple and decent language to us and the fellow committee members. The entire conference aims at analyzing your understanding of the agenda and not how much you have studied. So, kindly focus upon analysis and explanation, because we are interested in knowing how much you know and remember that you will know only if you read and work.

We wish you all the very best and feel free to ask doubts, if any.

Regards,

Executive Board

9th Edition of Presidium MUN

Presidium School, Gurgaon

INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

Official Website: <https://www.un.org/en/ga/>

The General Assembly (GA) of the United Nations (UN) is one of the six principal organs of the UN established by the Charter of the United Nations (1946) in the aftermath of the Second World War. As plenary organ with universal membership among all 193 UN members, as well as a number of Observer States and Non-Governmental Organizations. Currently, the Holy See and the State of Palestine are the only two non-Member States with permanent Observer status. All members enjoy equal voting rights (one state, one vote). The GA as the plenary organ has very broad competences, as long as the Security Council is not currently dealing with the issue. The GA has six main committees, dealing with all important global issues, ranging from topics such as fiscal responsibility over international security, development, international law to human rights. The GA is the most important forum for multilateral discussions on a range of issues outlined in the Charter, specifically within Articles 10 – 22 which detail the functions and powers of the body. Generally spoken, the GA's role is the one of a norm setter as policymaking and representative organ. This does also mean that the GA does not actually carry out the operations or tasks called for in its resolutions.

As the main organ, the GA does not report to other UN bodies, but rather requests and reviews reports and resolutions by other organs and subsidiary bodies, Article 15 UN Charter. The GA can, for example, request the Secretary-General to issue a report to be presented to one of the main committees on a specified question such as the implementation of recommendations made by the GA. Additionally, non-governmental organizations have an important relationship with the GA and can be and often are invited to speak at the GA.

History

- **Establishment:** The UNGA was established in 1945, alongside the formation of the UN itself, following World War II, to promote international cooperation and prevent future conflicts.
- **First Session:** The first session took place in London in 1946.

Structure

- **Membership:** All 193 member states have equal representation, each with one vote.
- **Sessions:** The UNGA meets annually in New York City, typically beginning in September and lasting for several weeks.
- **Presidency:** The presidency of the UNGA rotates annually among different regional groups. The President is elected at the start of each session.

Functions and Powers

1. **Legislative Role:** The UNGA discusses and makes recommendations on issues of international peace and security, development, human rights, and more.
2. **Budgetary Role:** It approves the UN budget and assesses the financial contributions of member states.
3. **Electoral Role:** The UNGA elects non-permanent members of the Security Council, the members of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and appoints the Secretary-General upon recommendation from the Security Council.
4. **International Law:** It can develop international law through resolutions and declarations, though these are generally non-binding.

The UNGA serves as a vital forum for dialogue and decision-making on a broad range of global issues. Its ability to foster collaboration and collective action is crucial for addressing the interconnected challenges facing humanity today. As the world evolves, the UNGA will continue to adapt, striving to fulfill its mission of promoting peace, development, and human rights worldwide.

INTRODUCTION TO THE AGENDA

Agenda: *Recognising the Potential Benefits for International Efforts of Nuclear Proliferation and Latest Advancements*

Nuclear Proliferation

nuclear proliferation, the spread of nuclear weapons, nuclear weapons technology, or fissile material to countries that do not already possess them. The term is also used to refer to the possible acquisition of nuclear weapons by terrorist organizations or other armed groups.

The acquisition of nuclear weapons by developing countries such as India (1974), Pakistan (1998), and North Korea(2006) raised new challenges. While developing countries can acquire nuclear weapons, they lack the elaborate system of command and control that limited the risk of nuclear accident and conflict escalation in countries like the United States and the Soviet Union. Similar concerns were raised following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, when some former Soviet republics inherited a portion of the Soviet nuclear arsenal. Many experts warned that neither these countries nor a weakened Russia could guarantee the security of their nuclear weapons. Under the Lisbon Protocol(1992), Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine, as well as Russia and the United States, became parties to the START (Strategic Arms Reduction Talks) treaty between the United States and the former Soviet Union, and the former Soviet republics agreed to destroy or transfer to Russia all strategic nuclear warheads in their territories.

Source: <https://www.britannica.com/event/Strategic-Arms-Reduction-Talks>

Nuclear Energy

Nuclear energy is the energy released during nuclear reactions, primarily through the processes of nuclear fission (splitting atomic nuclei) and nuclear fusion (combining atomic nuclei).

Sources:

- **Fission:** Most commonly used in nuclear power plants, where uranium-235 or plutonium-239 atoms are split to release energy.
- **Fusion:** The process that powers the sun, where hydrogen isotopes combine to form helium, releasing vast amounts of energy. While still largely experimental for electricity generation, it holds great potential.

What is the role of the IAEA?

- The IAEA establishes and promotes international standards and guidance for the safe and secure use of nuclear energy to protect people and the environment.
- The IAEA supports existing and new nuclear programmes around the world by providing technical support and knowledge management. Through the Milestones Approach, the IAEA provides technical expertise and guidance to countries that want to develop a nuclear power programme as well as to those who are decommissioning theirs.
- Through its safeguards and verification activities, the IAEA oversees that nuclear material and technologies are not diverted from peaceful use.
- Review missions and advisory services led by the IAEA provide guidance on the activities necessary during the lifetime of production of nuclear energy: from the mining of uranium to the construction, maintenance and decommissioning of nuclear power plants and the management of nuclear waste.
- The IAEA administers a reserve of low enriched uranium (LEU) in Kazakhstan, which can be used as a last resort by countries that are in urgent need of LEU for peaceful purposes.

International Efforts in Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Cooperation

1. Treaties and Agreements:

- **Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT):** Established to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, promote peaceful uses, and pursue disarmament. Over 190 countries are parties to the NPT. **Source:** Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) – UNODA

- **Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT):** Aims to ban all nuclear explosions, contributing to non-proliferation and disarmament efforts. **Source:** [The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty \(CTBT\) | CTBTO](#)
- 2. **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA):**
 - The IAEA promotes the peaceful use of nuclear energy and ensures compliance with non-proliferation agreements. It provides technical assistance and facilitates international cooperation in nuclear technology. **Source:** [What is Nuclear Energy? The Science of Nuclear Power | IAEA](#)
- 3. **Bilateral and Multilateral Cooperation:**
 - Countries often engage in cooperative agreements to share nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, enhancing trust and fostering collaborative research. [Arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation in NATO](#)

What is the role of NATO?

Official website: [North Atlantic treaty organization](#)

- NATO actively contributes to effective and verifiable arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation efforts through its policies, activities and the efforts of Allied countries. NATO itself is not a party to any treaty, but it supports and facilitates dialogue among Allies, partners and other countries to implement their international obligations.
- NATO Allies are parties to the [Conventional Armed Forces in Europe \(CFE\) Treaty](#), the [Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons \(NPT\)](#), the [Chemical Weapons Convention](#), the [Biological Weapons Convention](#) and other treaties and agreements that promote arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation.
- NATO cooperates with the [United Nations \(UN\)](#), the [European Union \(EU\)](#), other regional organizations and multilateral initiatives to address the proliferation of [weapons of mass destruction \(WMD\)](#). Nuclear weapons committed to NATO's defense have been reduced by more than 90 per cent since the height of the Cold War.
 - NATO will remain a nuclear alliance as long as there are nuclear weapons in the world, at a level consistent with its deterrence and defense posture, based on an appropriate mix of nuclear, conventional and missile defense capabilities, complemented by space and cyber capabilities.
 - NATO Allies also assist partner countries in the destruction of surplus stocks of mines, arms and munitions. In addition, former military personnel receive retraining assistance through defense reform Trust Fund projects.

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The 2022 Strategic Concept, endorsed at the NATO Summit in Madrid, reinforced a critical link between NATO's deterrence and defense efforts and Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, two policy instruments that complement and support Allied security.

Sources: 1. [The Conventional Armed Forces in Europe \(CFE\) Treaty and the Adapted CFE Treaty at a Glance | Arms Control Association](#)

2. [Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons \(NPT\) | IAEA](#)

3. [Chemical Weapons Convention | OPCW](#)

4. [Biological Weapons Convention – UNODA](#)

5. [Weapons of Mass Destruction | Homeland Security](#)

Safeguards to Legal Frameworks

- The vast majority of safeguards agreements are comprehensive safeguards agreements that have been concluded by the IAEA with [non-nuclear-weapon States parties](#) to the [NPT](#) and nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties. As of 3 May 2023, the IAEA has concluded comprehensive safeguards agreements with 182 States. Some 100 of these States have also concluded small quantities protocols to their comprehensive safeguards agreements. Source: <http://disarmament.un.org/treaties/t/npt>
<https://www.iaea.org/topics/non-proliferation-treaty>
- All non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the NPT, as well as States parties to the regional nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties, are required to conclude comprehensive safeguards agreements with the IAEA. A State undertakes to accept IAEA Safeguards on all nuclear material in all peaceful nuclear activities within its territory, under its jurisdiction or carried out under its control anywhere. Under these agreements, the IAEA has the right and obligation to ensure that safeguards are applied on all such nuclear material for the exclusive purpose of verifying that such material is not diverted to nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

Establishing a Framework for Peaceful Use

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- **Promote Nuclear Technology for Peaceful Purposes:** Develop international guidelines for the safe use of nuclear technology in areas like energy, medicine, and research, ensuring that such advancements are accessible to all states.
- **Facilitate Knowledge Sharing:** Create platforms for states to share best practices in nuclear safety and security, particularly for developing countries.
- **Regulate Dual-Use Technologies:** Develop legal frameworks to address the risks associated with dual-use technologies in nuclear development, ensuring they are not diverted to military applications.
- **Utilize AI and Blockchain:** Explore how AI and blockchain can enhance monitoring and verification processes in nuclear non-proliferation.
- **Economic Incentives for Compliance:** Establish a system of rewards for countries that successfully implement non-proliferation measures, potentially through international financial institutions.
- **Sanctions and Penalties:** Design a coherent sanctions regime for states that violate non-proliferation norms while ensuring that these measures are balanced and do not harm civilian populations.

Current Trends

Nuclear Modernization: Existing nuclear states are modernizing their arsenals, raising questions about disarmament and future arms control.

Factors that are influencing nuclear modernization programs include:

- Strategic competition: The U.S. is competing with Russia and China, which fuels calls for more nuclear weapons
- Nuclear secrecy: Despite calls for transparency, nuclear secrecy in the U.S. has increased
- Rising costs: The program is facing rising costs and delays

Regional Tensions: Ongoing conflicts and rivalries in regions like South Asia and the Middle East fuel concerns over nuclear proliferation.

South Asia: India and Pakistan are both nuclear powers that have not ratified the 1986 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). A nuclear detonation in a major South Asian city could cause considerable devastation.

Source: [Nuclear Proliferation and South Asia: Recent Trends](#)

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Middle East: The primary nuclear power struggle in the Middle East is between Israel and Iran. Israel's "nuclear opacity" policy is a strategic deterrent in a hostile region. Iran's nuclear ambitions have raised alarms and led to international sanctions. Other countries in the region, such as Pakistan, have also not ratified the NPT.

Source: [Global nuclear order: Navigating the regional landscape](#)

Sources for Research

1. <http://disarmament.un.org/treaties/t/npt>
2. [Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons \(NPT\) | IAEA](#)
3. [Chemical Weapons Convention | OPCW](#)
4. [Biological Weapons Convention – UNODA](#)
5. [Weapons of Mass Destruction | Homeland Security](#)
6. <https://www.britannica.com/event/Strategic-Arms-Reduction-Talks>
7. <https://www.ctbto.org/our-mission/the-treaty>
8. [Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons \(NPT\) | IAEA](#)

NOTE: Kindly note that this Background Guide is not exhaustive in nature and is merely a vessel to guide your research procedures by hinting at a few of many key focus areas and the degree of the technicality and analysis that is expected out of every one of you. Research should not be limited to the background guide and the links provided here, delegates are encouraged to go beyond and research all relevant information.

With this, we wish you all the best and anticipate two days of exemplary academic deliberations!