

Forum: GA1

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Issue: Establishing international cooperative arrangements and measures in order to further and strengthen political stability through lower levels of armament

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I. Introduction

Soon after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, the cold war was declared to be over. After the possibly longest and most extreme arms race of all time between the Soviet Union and the US, as well as their allies, the process of disarmament could now really begin, and the world was headed towards global peace. But today, there are still over 14,000 Nuclear Weapons in existence that are in possession of nine different Nations. An estimated 875 million small arms are in circulation worldwide, which amounts to almost one weapon per household. How come so many Nations are unwilling to give up their weapons, or don't see it as safe to do so? In 1899, an effort was made at the Hague Conference to stop the increase in land and naval armaments of all nations for a limited period of time. Due to the opposition of certain delegates and national ambitions and rivalries which were stronger than the consciousness of a common interest, this effort failed. As a result, 15 years later the first world war broke out, costing an estimated 40 million lives of soldiers and civilians. This example show us why disarmament is necessary, and that all member nations need to act in the interest of the global community and work together to reduce the global amount of weapons and especially weapons of mass destruction, to remove the hostility that has taken over the world and prevent even more unnecessary conflicts.

II. Definitions of Key Terms

- **Arms control**

Arms control is the broadest of the three terms often used in similar context but with slightly different meanings, together with the terms non-proliferation and disarmament. It generally refers to mutually agreed upon restraints or controls on the research and manufacturing of weapons, or the levels of deployment of troops and weapons systems.

- **Disarmament**

Disarmament, often inaccurately used as a synonym for arms control, refers to the elimination of weapons either unilaterally (meaning one single Nation decides to take these steps in the hope that one's example will be followed) or reciprocally (meaning several countries decide to disarm together). Usually this is in reference to nuclear weapons and the dismantlement or removal of present nuclear weaponry.

- **Non proliferation**

Non Proliferation means that all efforts are put into preventing a rapid increase in the amount of something. In this case the limitation of distributing materials required to build nuclear bombs (eg. Fissile materials, equipment, funding). This aims to decrease the production of nuclear arms.

- **Political Instability**

Political Instability can be defined in many ways. Often, the suggested meaning is that a regime is close to collapsing and/or changing. Another meaning is that the people are uprising, often violently, for example with assassinations or violent demonstrations. These instabilities can also be of economic nature, like a low gdp.

- **Arms race**

An arms race occurs when two nations compete through the production of arms. This often escalates as both countries try to outdo each other in the amount bringing more and more weapons into global circulation. It poses a real danger, as an arms race can happen much faster and easier than stable disarmament to resolve the tension.

- **Small arms**

Small arms are portable firearms including rifles, pistols, and light machine guns. These are the weapons mostly used by rebels and have caused large problems to developing governments.

III. General Overview

a) Previous attempts to solve the issue

- **Conventional armed forces treaty**

The Conventional armed forces treaty was created at the end of the cold war. It established limits on military equipment and mandated the destruction of excess weaponry. A notable fact about the conventional armed forces treaty is that it equal limits for the two “group of states-parties”, NATO and the warsaw pact. However, in 2007, the Russian Federation announced its suspension of participation in the treaty.



- **Chemical Weapons Convention**

The chemical weapons convention (CWC), which entered into force in 1997, is an arms control treaty that outlaws the production, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons and their precursors, meaning the chemical building blocks that can be put together to form chemical weapons. It is much more comprehensive than the 1925 Geneva Convention, which only banned the use but not the possession of chemical weapons. The CWC, to which 193 states are parties, also requests that all already existing Chemical Weapons under the jurisdiction of a member nation are destroyed. The CWC only allows very limited production of Chemical Weapons for research, medical, pharmaceutical or protective purposes. The Convention is seen as highly successful, as by November 2018 over 96% of the world's declared Chemical Weapon stockpiles have been declared.

- **Anti Ballistic Missile Treaty**

The Anti Ballistic Missile Treaty barred the US and Soviet Union from deploying nationwide defenses against strategic ballistic missiles. The two Nations agreed to have only 2 ABMs stationed to protect them from Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBM), with the idea being that one could protect the capital of each nation while the other ABM could protect an ICBM field to avoid it being destroyed. At the time, this was a very important treaty that shows what is possible as the political unrest at this time was very high, but the US and Soviet Union still managed to negotiate a treaty that slowed the arms race and was therefore beneficial to both Nations. However, the US withdrew from the Treaty in 2002, as the American President at the time, George W. Bush, argued that the Treaty was now unnecessary and that it prevented the US from defending itself against terrorism. Therefore, with one of the only two parties withdrawing, the Treaty is now defunct.

- **Nuclear nonproliferation**

The Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons is an international treaty with the objective of achieving Nuclear Disarmament as well as general disarmament. The Treaty also works to promote cooperation in the peaceful use of Nuclear Energy. Out of the 5 nations not to have signed the treaty, four are believed to be in possession of Nuclear Weapons. These four countries (India, Pakistan, North Korea and Israel) are the only Nuclear Weapon states next to the core group of countries which own Nuclear Weapons since before 1967: the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, and China.

b) Current attempts to solve the issue

- **The Conference on Disarmament**

The Conference on Disarmament, the successor to the Ten-Nation Committee on Disarmament (TNDC), the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament (ENDC), and the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (CCD), was established 1979 and now has over 60 participant Nations and many other observing countries. It has a very strong Relationship to the United Nations, as it also takes into account the recommendations made by the UNGA (The UN General Assembly on Disarmament). Together with its preceding committees, the CD has negotiated important and famous multilateral arms control, nonproliferation and disarmament agreements such as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons , Environmental Modification and Seabed treaties, the Biological and Toxic Weapons Convention , the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

These Treaties still play an important role to this day. And the Conference on Disarmament is continued to be held annually, and will hopefully continue to

bring stability to the world with future agreements until we can one day live weaponry-free.

- **NATO work towards disarmament**

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is an intergovernmental military alliance between 29 European and North American countries. Founded over 70 years ago, and therefore having existed through most of the cold war, NATO has a long history with Disarmament. Since the height of the cold war, NATO countries have reduced Nuclear Weapons by 95%. NATO Allies also assist member nations in the destruction of surplus stocks of mines, arms and munitions, to ensure safe and thorough disarmament. In addition, NATO works with the UN and EU to combat proliferation issues regarding weapons of mass destruction. The Alliance openly supports most arms control agreements and the legal framework that comes with them, and has frequently gotten involved with past important treaties. As a cooperative group of Nations, NATO has played an important role in regards to disarmament in the past and will continue to do so in the future.

c) Major Countries and Organizations Involved:

- **Algeria**

Over the lifetime of Algeria many crises have befallen it. From Military rule to a civil war in the 1990s the country has faced many issues. Islamic Radicals inhabit the southern parts and through weapons trades the area is filled with political turmoil

- **Yemen**

In Yemen there is a devastating civil war. Through political and economical unrest the country has suffered for multiple years. Through the Houthi movement

and other rebellion against the new government many weapons have been brought to Yeen which are causing casualties.

- Israel

Israel has been in many conflicts regarding the middle East. One of these conflicts is with Palestine in a fight over territory on the west Bank including Jerusalem. Including this, they are one of the world's largest arms dealer.

- United States

The United States of America have a long history of operating their military outside of their own borders. It is one of the few states that permit carrying weapons. In addition the US is a global giant concerning weapon exports and pose large military power. It is important to consider that they withdrew from the Anti Ballistic Missile Treaty marking a step back for the development of large-scale disarmament.

- China

Due to a high economic and political development in the last decades, China has quickly build up a strong and technologically advanced army and arsenal. They are the main provider of arms in asai and have strong economic ties to various countries in the East.

- Russia

Russia has been a global influence on how weapons and nuclear missiles are handled around the world. Since the cold war they have been engaged in disarmament talks as they have a large arsenal to their disposal. It is important to consider that they signed out of the Conventional armed forces treaty which hinders future developments in the issue.

IV. Timeline of Events

1. **1945:** The atom bomb is invented and war is changed forever,
2. **1970:** The Nuclear Nonproliferation treaty is entered into force and Nuclear disarmament is tackled (see above for further detail),
3. **1972:** Anti Ballistic Missile Treaty establishes restrictions on the US and USSR concerning ballistic and tactical missiles (see above for further detail),
4. **1990:** Conventional armed forces treaty is conceived and saw to limit the amount of weapons a state may possess (see above for further detail),
5. **1997:** Chemical weapons convention is put into place as a regulation concerning nuclear weapons and the materials used (see above for further detail),

V. Questions to Consider

- How far is your Country willing to go in regards to its own disarmament to ensure peace and political stability on a global scale?
- Is your country willing to do so unilaterally or reciprocally?
- In what major military alliances is your country involved?
- Does your country own Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD's) and is it willing to dispose of these? If yes, under which conditions?
- Is your country Politically stable? Does your country intervene in unstable areas?

- Does your country sell or provide arms to other nations? If so, would might policies harm your economy

VII. Possible Solutions:

Strengthening existing Treaties

There are already numerous treaties and agreements put in place concerning disarmament, with many of them going into detail about a specific type of arms or a specific conflict. Often, member Nations waste time trying to create a new agreement when there is already an existing one that could simply be amended to make it agreeable for all nations. For Example in regards to Nuclear Disarmament: In 2017, a new treaty banning nuclear weapons was debated, where coincidentally the P5 Nations allowed to possess Nuclear Weapons were absent. With every Nuclear Power seemingly opposed these negotiations, as was evident by their absence and/or voting, clearly, this treaty was simply a political statement and is not the answer to Nuclear Disarmament. Rather than trying to come up with a new agreement, the more effective attempt would have been to strengthen the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, which has served as the cornerstone of nuclear disarmament since entering into force in 1970. One important change would be to include the new Nuclear Powers which are not currently mentioned in the NPT, as at least some of them pose a serious threat. Another important measure would be to ensure North Korea return into the Treaty. By effectively amending these treaties, we can make much more progress than by trying to create new and repetitive agreements.

Quick idea breakdown:

- Increasing international regulations and past treaties;
- Transparency measures to ensure there is no fraud;
- Economic and/or diplomatic sanctions on nations when required;
- Regulations based on existing arsenals
- Focusing on reduction of present arms or prevention of future production

VIII. Conclusion

The question this committee faces is a global issue that has been discussed and tried to be resolved before. With the intent to regulate nuclear weapons, ballistic missiles, biological weapons and others, many countries will have strong views. This debate will require compromise and nations to work together to achieve a long lasting, fruitful resolution.

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