



Washington, DC USA  
8-10 November 2019  
[nmun.org/nmun\\_dc.html](http://nmun.org/nmun_dc.html)



## General Assembly First Committee Background Guide 2019

Written by: Samantha L. Hall, Director;  
Angelo Bechara, Assistant Director; Kevin Tang, Assistant Director-IS



# NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS



# NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

THE WORLD'S LARGEST UNIVERSITY-LEVEL SIMULATION • SINCE 1927

13570 Grove Dr., Suite 294 • Maple Grove, MN 55311

www.nmun.org • info@nmun.org • 612.353.5649

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2019 National Model United Nations Conference in Washington, DC (NMUN•DC)! We are pleased to introduce you to our committee, the General Assembly First Committee (GA1). This year's staff is: Director Samantha L. Hall and Assistant Director Angelo J. Bechara. Samantha holds a Masters in U.S. Foreign Policy and National Security and is a consultant that promotes self-reliance in developing nations. Angelo is a recent Masters graduate specializing in U.S. Foreign Policy and the Middle East and North Africa region.

The topics under discussion for GA1 are:

- I. Towards a Nuclear Weapons Free World: Accelerating Disarmament and Nonproliferation
- II. Ending the Use of Improvised Explosive Devices, Landmines, Cluster Munitions, and Other Explosives

The General Assembly First Committee focuses on disarmament, promotes peace, and identifies solutions to challenges in international security that affect the international community. GA1 considers matters related to disarmament and international security, particularly on guidance for disarmament, regulation of armaments, and maintenance of cooperative arrangements that affect international peace and security. GA1 collaborates with the United Nations Disarmament Commission and several other UN entities on issues related to armament regulation and disarmament initiatives.

This Background Guide serves as an introduction to the topics for this committee. However, it is not intended to replace individual research. We encourage you to conduct additional research, explore your Member State's policies in-depth, and examine the policies of other Member States to improve your ability to negotiate and reach consensus. In preparation for the conference, each delegation will use their research to draft and submit a [position paper](#). Guidelines are available in the [NMUN Position Paper Guide](#).

The [NMUN website](#) has many additional resources, including two that are essential both in preparation for the conference and as a resource during the conference. They are:

1. The [NMUN Delegate Preparation Guide](#), which explains each step in the delegate process, from pre-Conference research to the committee debate and resolution drafting processes. Please take note of the information on plagiarism, and the prohibition on pre-written working papers and resolutions. Delegates should not discuss the topics or agenda with other members of their committee until the first committee session.
2. The [NMUN Rules of Procedure](#), which includes the long and short form of the rules as well as an explanatory narrative and example script of the flow of procedure.

In addition, please review the mandatory [NMUN Conduct Expectations](#) on the NMUN website. They include the conference dress code and other expectations of all attendees. We want to emphasize that any instances of sexual harassment or discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, or disability will not be tolerated. If you have any questions concerning your preparation for the committee or the conference itself, please contact the Under-Secretary-General Adam Wolf at [usgadam.dc@nmun.org](mailto:usgadam.dc@nmun.org) or Secretary-General Chase Mitchell at [secgen.dc@nmun.org](mailto:secgen.dc@nmun.org).

We wish you all the best in your preparations and look forward to seeing you at the conference!

Sincerely,  
Samantha Hall, Director  
Angelo J. Bechara, Assistant Director



## Committee Overview

### Introduction

With universal membership, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly is the main deliberative and policymaking body of the UN.<sup>1</sup> The General Assembly has existed since the creation of the UN and is one of the six principal organs of the UN established by the *Charter of the United Nations* (1945).<sup>2</sup> The work of the General Assembly is undertaken in subsidiary committees, each of which debate and adopt draft resolutions on their particular topics and allocated agenda items.<sup>3</sup> The General Assembly First Committee considers matters related to disarmament and international security.<sup>4</sup> The first resolution adopted after the creation of the UN, which was on the topic of eliminating weapons of mass destruction, was submitted to the General Assembly Plenary by the First Committee.<sup>5</sup>

In 1978 the General Assembly held the first special session on disarmament and established the current UN disarmament machinery, including the Conference on Disarmament (CD), the international community's multilateral negotiation forum on disarmament, and the second and current Disarmament Commission.<sup>6</sup> In 1980, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) was created to undertake independent research on questions related to disarmament.<sup>7</sup> Several other disarmament-related entities and organizations also report to the General Assembly through the First Committee, such as the regional centers on disarmament and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization.<sup>8</sup>

Historically, the General Assembly has passed resolutions on key treaties to control weapons of mass destruction and conventional arms.<sup>9</sup> In 1959, General Assembly resolution 1378(XIV) on "General and Complete Disarmament," the first resolution sponsored by all Member States, stated that disarmament the most important question facing the world at the time.<sup>10</sup> In 1968, General Assembly resolution 2373 (XXII) was adopted and requested that Member States sign and ratify the *Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons* (NPT) (1968).<sup>11</sup> In 1971 and 1980, the General Assembly passed resolutions to commend the creation of the *Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction* (1972) and the *Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction* (1992).<sup>12</sup> The General Assembly has also passed resolutions on conventional arms control treaties, such the *Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction* (1997), the *Arms Trade Treaty* (2013), and the *Convention on Cluster Munitions* (2008).<sup>13</sup> Most recently, in 2017, the General Assembly adopted resolution 71/258 on "Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations" in which it decided to convene a UN conference to negotiate a legally binding treaty to prohibits nuclear weapons.<sup>14</sup> This conference produced what is now known as the *Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons* (2017).<sup>15</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> UN General Assembly, *About the General Assembly*.

<sup>2</sup> *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945.

<sup>3</sup> UN General Assembly, *About the General Assembly*.

<sup>4</sup> UN General Assembly, *Disarmament and International Security (First Committee)*.

<sup>5</sup> UN General Assembly, *Establishment of A Commission to Deal With the Problems Raised by the Discovery of Atomic Energy (A/RES/1/(1))*, 1946; UN ODA, *Disarmament: A Basic Guide Fourth Edition*, 2017.

<sup>6</sup> UN ODA, *Disarmament: A Basic Guide Fourth Edition*, 2017.

<sup>7</sup> UN General Assembly, *Question of General Disarmament (A/RES/2602 E)*, 1969; UN General Assembly, *Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly (S-10/2)*, 1978.

<sup>8</sup> Switzerland, *The PGA Handbook: A practical guide to the United Nations General Assembly 2<sup>nd</sup> ed*, 2017, p. 63.

<sup>9</sup> UN ODA *Disarmament: A Basic Guide Fourth Edition*, 2017.

<sup>10</sup> UN General Assembly, *General and Complete Disarmament (A/RES/1378 (XIV))*, 1959.

<sup>11</sup> UN Audiovisual Library of International Law, *Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons*, 1968, 2012.

<sup>12</sup> UN ODA, *Disarmament: A Basic Guide Fourth Edition*, 2017.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>14</sup> UN ODA, *Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons*.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*

## **Governance, Structure, and Membership**

As dictated by the Charter, the General Assembly is comprised of all UN Member States, currently 193.<sup>16</sup> Observer status can also be granted to intergovernmental organizations and states without full UN membership.<sup>17</sup> Currently the Holy See and the State of Palestine are the only two non-Member States with permanent observer status; over 100 intergovernmental organizations also have observer status.<sup>18</sup> In the General Assembly, each Member State has one equal vote.<sup>19</sup> Decisions on important matters such as the maintenance of international peace and security; the admission, suspension, and expulsion of members; and all budgetary questions require a two-thirds majority.<sup>20</sup> For all other matters, votes in the General Assembly require a simple majority; the majority of resolutions are adopted without a vote, illustrating the consensus-based nature of the General Assembly.<sup>21</sup>

The First Committee receives substantive and organizational support from three important entities: the General Committee, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), and the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management.<sup>22</sup> The General Committee is comprised of the President of the General Assembly and the 21 Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly, as well as the Chairpersons of all the six General Assembly Main Committees; all positions are elected every session on a non-renewable basis.<sup>23</sup> The General Committee's main duty, besides making recommendations on organizational issues, is to determine the agenda of the General Assembly Plenary and its six Main Committees.<sup>24</sup> After receiving a preliminary list of agenda items from the UN Secretariat, the General Committee allocates the different items to each Main Committee.<sup>25</sup> The First Committee then votes upon its own agenda based on the allocated agenda items.<sup>26</sup> Within the UN Secretariat, UNODA provides "objective, impartial and up-to-date" information and promotes the implementation of practical measures on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, disarmament in the field of conventional weapons, and the general strengthening of mechanisms and frameworks bolstering disarmament.<sup>27</sup> It further encourages norm setting at the General Assembly, CD, and UNDC.<sup>28</sup> Additionally, the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management also provides valuable technical secretariat support and acts as the intersection between the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.<sup>29</sup>

The First Committee works in close cooperation with the UNDC and the CD.<sup>30</sup> The CD has a crucial role in addressing issues of disarmament and has been central to negotiations of international agreements such as the NPT.<sup>31</sup> Unlike the CD, the UNDC is a subsidiary organ of the First Committee and is composed of all 193 Member States.<sup>32</sup> Primarily suggesting recommendations to the General Assembly, it has been important in the formulation of principles and guidelines that have subsequently been endorsed by the committee in its own reports.<sup>33</sup> Both bodies report either annually or more frequently to the First Committee.<sup>34</sup> Additionally, as a crucial partner with the UN system, civil society organizations have an

<sup>16</sup> *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945.

<sup>17</sup> UN DPI, *About Permanent Observers*; UN DPI, *Non-Member States*.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>19</sup> *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Art. 18.

<sup>20</sup> Switzerland, *The PGA Handbook: A Practical Guide to the United Nations General Assembly 2<sup>nd</sup> ed*, 2017, p. 54.

<sup>21</sup> Switzerland, *The PGA Handbook: A Practical Guide to the United Nations General Assembly 2<sup>nd</sup> ed*, 2017, p. 14.

<sup>22</sup> UN General Assembly, *Disarmament and International Security (First Committee)*.

<sup>23</sup> UN General Assembly, *General Committee*.

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>27</sup> UN ODA, *About Us*.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>29</sup> UN DGACM, *Functions of the Department*, 2014.

<sup>30</sup> UN General Assembly, *Disarmament and International Security (First Committee)*.

<sup>31</sup> UN Office at Geneva, *An Introduction to the Conference*, 2009.

<sup>32</sup> UN ODA, *United Nations Disarmament Commission*.

<sup>33</sup> UN ODA, *United Nations Disarmament Commission*.

<sup>34</sup> UN General Assembly, *Disarmament and International Security (First Committee)*.



important relationship with the General Assembly and are often invited to speak at the General Assembly.<sup>35</sup>

### ***Mandate, Functions, and Powers***

The mandate of the General Assembly is set in Chapter IV of the Charter.<sup>36</sup> Article 11 states that the General Assembly may consider principles of international peace and security, including disarmament.<sup>37</sup> The question of disarmament is organized into seven clusters: nuclear weapons; other weapons of mass destruction (WMDs); disarmament aspects in outer space; conventional weapons; regional disarmament and security; the disarmament machinery; and other disarmament measures and security.<sup>38</sup> The General Assembly typically only considers general matters of international security and may not address specific issues under consideration by the Security Council.<sup>39</sup>

The General Assembly and its six Main Committees are the center of the UN System and represent its main deliberative, policymaking, and representative organs.<sup>40</sup> Their outcomes progressively define norms that can be used to craft legally-binding treaties or conventions.<sup>41</sup> The General Assembly is tasked with initiating studies and making recommendations to promote international cooperation in the political field; encouraging the development of international law; promoting the implementation of cultural, social, and human rights; and promoting fundamental freedoms free from discrimination.<sup>42</sup> The body “receives and considers reports” issued by “the other principal organs established under the Charter as well as reports issued by its own subsidiary bodies.”<sup>43</sup> The General Assembly Plenary receives recommendations from the six Main Committees.<sup>44</sup> Once the recommendations are sent to the Plenary Committee, the Plenary then votes on whether to adopt the resolutions as presented.<sup>45</sup> Although decisions reached by the General Assembly are non-binding, they are often adopted as customary international law and serve as international policy norms.<sup>46</sup> Additionally, the General Assembly can request the Secretary-General or other UN organs to issue a report to one of the Main Committees on a specified question such as the implementation of recommendations made by the General Assembly.<sup>47</sup> The First Committee is able to introduce resolutions to take action or establish norms on initiate new negotiations on arms control and disarmament.<sup>48</sup>

### ***Recent Sessions and Current Priorities***

Since 1991, the UN has tried to improve the General Assembly’s efficiency, democratize the selection of the Secretary-General and other executive heads, and maintain the institutional memory of the President of the General Assembly.<sup>49</sup> During its 72<sup>nd</sup> session, which began in 2017, the General Assembly adopted resolution 72/313 to establish an ad hoc working group, open to all Member States, to enhance the body’s work through discussions with Main Committee Chairs on best practices to avoid work duplication,

---

<sup>35</sup> Switzerland, *The PGA Handbook: A Practical Guide to the United Nations General Assembly 2<sup>nd</sup> ed*, 2017, p. 31.

<sup>36</sup> *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945.

<sup>37</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>38</sup> Switzerland, *The PGA Handbook: A Practical Guide to the United Nations General Assembly 2<sup>nd</sup> ed*, 2017, p. 63.

<sup>39</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 13.

<sup>40</sup> UN General Assembly, *Functions and Powers of the General Assembly*.

<sup>41</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>42</sup> *Ibid.*; *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945; UN General Assembly, *Statement made by the Chairperson of the Fourth Committee*, 2013.

<sup>43</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>44</sup> *Ibid.*; UN General Assembly, *About the General Assembly*; Switzerland, *The PGA Handbook: A Practical Guide to the United Nations General Assembly 2<sup>nd</sup> ed*, 2017, p. 20.

<sup>45</sup> UN General Assembly, *About the General Assembly*.

<sup>46</sup> *Ibid.*; Switzerland, *The PGA Handbook: A Practical Guide to the United Nations General Assembly 2<sup>nd</sup> ed*, 2017, p. 13.

<sup>47</sup> UN General Assembly, *About the General Assembly*; Switzerland, *The PGA Handbook: A Practical Guide to the United Nations General Assembly 2<sup>nd</sup> ed*, 2017, pp. 36, 47.

<sup>48</sup> Weis, *The United Nations and Changing World Politics*, 2004, p. 161.

<sup>49</sup> UN General Assembly, *Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly: Background*.

transparent and equitable chair and rapporteur elections, and coordination of high level debates and meetings.<sup>50</sup>

Prior to the 73<sup>rd</sup> session's commencement, the Conference on Disarmament and the Secretary-General submitted reports to the First Committee on nuclear proliferation, disarmament, and conventional arms control in regions around the world as well as individual nations.<sup>51</sup> At its 73<sup>rd</sup> session, the First Committee adopted 68 draft proposals, all of which were subsequently adopted by the General Assembly on 5 December 2018.<sup>52</sup> While all thematic clusters were discussed, 24 draft resolutions focused on nuclear weapons, continuing activity on nuclear disarmament agreements, and the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zones, particularly in regions like the Middle East.<sup>53</sup> To support the recent *Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons* (2017), the General Assembly adopted resolution 73/48 "Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons" in 2018 which called on all states to adopt it.<sup>54</sup> The First Committee called for all Member States to adopt the *Arms Trade Treaty*, the *Convention on Cluster Munitions*, and other measures to combat illicit arms trafficking and improvised explosive devices.<sup>55</sup> To address the proliferation of non-nuclear weapons of mass destruction, the First Committee reaffirmed existing arms control treaties as well as measures to prevent terrorists from obtaining weapons of mass destruction.<sup>56</sup> The First Committee also affirmed the role of the Organization on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to investigate and identify the perpetrators of chemical weapons use, referring particularly to Syria.<sup>57</sup> On disarmament issues lacking explicit arms control treaties, the 73<sup>rd</sup> session saw several Member States express interest in a treaty to prevent an arms race in outer space while other Member States held reservations regarding its terms.<sup>58</sup>

The disarmament machinery's condition has been a source of concern because the Disarmament Commission failed to adopt a future agenda and the Conference on Disarmament failed to adopt a future program of work.<sup>59</sup> During the thematic debates, delegates reiterated past dissatisfaction with the Conference on Disarmament's limited progress and lack of recommendations.<sup>60</sup> Nonetheless, the First Committee adopted draft resolutions to combat first placement of weapons in space and implement confidence building measures towards preventing an outer space arms race.<sup>61</sup>

In recent years, the First Committee has placed greater emphasis on information security as Member States become more interconnected through technology.<sup>62</sup> General Assembly resolutions 73/266 on "Advancing responsible State behavior in cyberspace in the context of international security" and 73/27 on "Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security" advance state behavior norms in cyberspace by having the General Assembly convene a working group to develop a set of state norms and by having the Secretary-General work with a group of

<sup>50</sup> UN General Assembly, *Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (A/RES/68/307)*, 2014; UN General Assembly, *Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly (A/RES/72/313)*, 2018.

<sup>51</sup> UN General Assembly, *Documents of the First Committee (A/C.1/73/INF/1)*, 2018.

<sup>52</sup> UN General Assembly, *List of Draft Proposals for the 73<sup>rd</sup> Session*, 2019.

<sup>53</sup> UN DPI, *Sending 24 Resolution, Decisions to General Assembly First Committee Tackles Rage of Nuclear Concerns, Including New Atomic Bomb Free Zone in Middle East*, 2018.

<sup>54</sup> UN General Assembly, *Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (A/RES/73/48)*, 2018.

<sup>55</sup> UN DPI, *Approving 8 Drafts on Conventional Arms, First Committee Urges States to Help Reduce Human Suffering by Upholding Treaty Commitments*, 2018.

<sup>56</sup> UN DPI, *First Committee Sends 8 Drafts to General Assembly, Including Text Aimed at Identifying, Holding Perpetrators of Chemical Weapon Use Accountable*, 2018.

<sup>57</sup> Ibid.

<sup>58</sup> UN DPI, *Rising Alarm Over Possible Space War, First Committee Delegates Explore Ways to Build New Order for Preventing Celestial Conflict, Confrontation*, 2018.

<sup>59</sup> UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook Vol 42 Part 2*, 2017.

<sup>60</sup> UN DPI, *Warning Against Danger of Disarmament Machinery Rusting, First Committee Delegates Call for Greater Political Will to Clear Decades Long Gridlock*, 2018.

<sup>61</sup> UN DPI, *First Committee Sends 8 Drafts to General Assembly, Including Text Aimed at Identifying, Holding Perpetrators of Chemical Weapon Use Accountable*, 2018.

<sup>62</sup> UNODA, *Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security*, 2018.

experts to study cooperative measures to address information security threats, respectively.<sup>63</sup> With regard to regional disarmament, the First Committee approved resolutions to recommend strengthening the participation of women in disarmament at the regional levels and expressed support for UN Regional Centers for Peace and Disarmament.<sup>64</sup>

### Conclusion

Since its founding, the General Assembly's First Committee has pursued disarmament and arms control to further the UN's goal of international peace.<sup>65</sup> The General Assembly has and continues to promote treaties to eliminate weapons of mass destruction, and regulate conventional arms.<sup>66</sup> The working methods of the First Committee seek to foster consensus on most issues, including on new security threats like information technology and weapons in outer space, although it has struggled to advance new arms control instruments.<sup>67</sup> The First Committee will likely continue to play role in settings standards and promoting treaties to advance disarmament and take steps toward establishing sustainable peace.<sup>68</sup>

### Annotated Bibliography

Switzerland, Permanent Mission to the United Nations. (2017). *The PGA Handbook: A practical guide to the United Nations General Assembly*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Retrieved 15 June 2019 from:

[http://www.unitar.org/ny/sites/unitar.org/ny/files/UN\\_PGA\\_Handbook.pdf](http://www.unitar.org/ny/sites/unitar.org/ny/files/UN_PGA_Handbook.pdf)

*This publication produced by the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the UN is a contribution by a Member State on introductory information about the UN system. The General Assembly is a central focus of this handbook and includes a detailed description of its organization, structure, rules, and working methods. Further providing information specific to all six Main Committees, this handbook offers a unique source of information to delegates to understand the work of the General Assembly and its place within the UN system.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-first session. (2016). *Proposed Strategic Framework for the Period of 2018-2019, Par Two: Biennial Programme Plan, Programme 3: Disarmament (A/71/6(Prog.3))*. Retrieved 15 June 2019 from: [http://www.undocs.org/A/71/6\(prog.3\)](http://www.undocs.org/A/71/6(prog.3))

*The Proposed Strategic Framework is drafted biennially and outlines the priorities of each year. In the section on disarmament, there are two main segments that discuss overall orientation and legislative mandates. Under the overall orientation, five priority subprograms are listed, which include multilateral negotiations on arms limitations and disarmament, WMD, conventional arms, information and outreach, and regional disarmament. Delegates will gain more knowledge on the General Assembly's current priority for the year from this document, and have a clearer direction on moving the research forward.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-second session. (2018). *Documents of the First Committee (A/C.1/73/INF/1)* [Note by the Secretariat]. Retrieved 15 June 2019 from: <http://undocs.org/A/C.1/72/INF/1>

*This is an exceptionally useful source as it provides links to various UN documents utilized by the General Assembly First Committee during the 72<sup>nd</sup> session. The various*

<sup>63</sup> UN General Assembly, *Advancing responsible State Behavior in Cyberspace in the Context of International Security (A/RES/73/266)*, 2018; UN General Assembly, *Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunication in the Context of Information Security (A/RES/73/27)*, 2018.

<sup>64</sup> UN DPI, *First Committee Approves 27 texts, including 2 Proposing New Groups to Develop Rules for States on Responsible Cyberspace Conduct*, 2018.

<sup>65</sup> *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945.

<sup>66</sup> UN ODA, *Disarmament: A Basic Guide Fourth Edition*, 2017. p. 130-131.

<sup>67</sup> UN General Assembly, *Functions and Powers of the General Assembly*; UN DPI, *Rising Alarm Over Possible Space War, First Committee Delegates Explore Ways to Build New Order for Preventing Celestial Conflict, Confrontation*, 2018.

<sup>68</sup> *Reaching Critical Will, UN General Assembly First Committee*, 2014.

documents include information pertinent to the agenda of the First Committee including nuclear disarmament, chemical weapons, cybersecurity and international security, and outer space. Delegates should use this to expand their knowledge on the various priorities of the First Committee.

United Nations, Office for Disarmament Affairs (2017). *Disarmament: A Basic Guide 4<sup>th</sup> Edition*. [Report]. Retrieved 15 June 2019 from:

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/unoda-web/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Basic-Guide-4<sup>th</sup>-Edition-web1.pdf>

*The United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs' guide provides an overview of the major disarmament issues, and the organizations of the disarmament machinery. The document lists the major treaties associated with each disarmament issue, cross cutting themes like women and children in disarmament, and a list of UN disarmament institutions. Delegates will be able to quickly introduce themselves to current disarmament issues and the major organizational actors.*

United Nations, Office for Disarmament Affairs (2017). *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook Vol 42. Part II*. [Annual Report]. Retrieved 15 June 2019 from:

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/unoda-web/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/en-yb-vol-42-2017-part2.pdf>

*The United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs annual yearbook publication details the most recent updates on arms control affairs and the international bodies responsible for them. This edition lists the status of implementing Security Council resolutions, actions taken to implement existing treaties, and disarmament conferences. Delegates will be able to see the historical context for many of the First Committee's current priorities, the most recent progress made, and the most current challenges facing the UN and international bodies in their work toward disarmament.*

### Bibliography

Charter of the United Nations. (1945). Retrieved 14 June 2019 from:

<http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/index.shtml>

Reaching Critical Will. (2014). *UN General Assembly First Committee* [Website]. Retrieved 14 June 2019 from: <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/disarmament-fora/unga>

Switzerland, Permanent Mission to the United Nations. (2017). *The PGA Handbook: A practical guide to the United Nations General Assembly 2<sup>nd</sup> ed*. Retrieved 14 June 2019 from:

[http://www.unitar.org/ny/sites/unitar.org.ny/files/UN\\_PGA\\_Handbook.pdf](http://www.unitar.org/ny/sites/unitar.org.ny/files/UN_PGA_Handbook.pdf)

Thakur, R. (2006). *The United Nations, Peace and Security*. Cambridge: University Press.

United Nations, Audiovisual Library of International Law. (2012). *Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, 1968* [Background Note]. Retrieved 14 June 2019 from:

[http://legal.un.org/avl/pdf/ha/tnpt/tnpt\\_ph\\_e.pdf](http://legal.un.org/avl/pdf/ha/tnpt/tnpt_ph_e.pdf)

United Nations, Department for General Assembly and Conference Management. (2014). *Functions of the Department* [Website]. Retrieved 14 June 2019 from:

<http://www.un.org/Depts/DGACM/functions.shtml>

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (n.d.). *About Permanent Observers* [Website].

Retrieved 14 June 2019 from: <http://www.un.org/en/sections/member-states/about-permanent-observers/index.html>

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (n.d.). *Non-member States* [Website]. Retrieved 14

June 2019 from: <http://www.un.org/en/sections/member-states/non-member-states/index.html>



United Nations, Department of Public Information. (n.d.). *Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly*. [Website]. Retrieved 14 June 2019 from: [http://www.un.org/en/ga/revitalization/revital\\_current.shtml](http://www.un.org/en/ga/revitalization/revital_current.shtml)

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2018, October 4<sup>th</sup>). *Approving New Agenda, Work Programme on Disarmament Priorities, First Committee Elects Vice Chairs, Completing Bureau (GA/DIS/3596)* [Press Release]. Retrieved 14 June 2019 from: <https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/gadis3596.doc.htm>

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2018, October 24<sup>th</sup>). *Rising Alarm Over Possible Space War, First Committee Delegates Explore Ways to Build New Order for Preventing Celestial Conflict, Confrontation (GA/DIS/3609)* [Press Release]. Retrieved 12 August 2018 from: <https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/gadis3609.doc.htm>

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2018, October 31<sup>st</sup>) *Warning Against Danger of Disarmament Machinery Rusting, First Committee Delegates Call for Greater Political Will to Clear Decades Long Gridlock (GA/DIS/3614)* [Press Release]. Retrieved 14 June 2019 from: <https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/gadis3609.doc.htm>

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2018, November 1<sup>st</sup>) *Sending 24 Resolution, Decisions to General Assembly First Committee Tackles Rage of Nuclear Concerns, Including New Atomic Bomb Free Zone in Middle East (GA/DIS/3615)* [Press Release]. Retrieved 14 June 2019 from: <https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/gadis3615.doc.htm>

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2018, November 5<sup>th</sup>) *First Committee Sends 8 Drafts to General Assembly, Including Text Aimed at Identifying, Holding Perpetrators of Chemical Weapon Use Accountable (GA/DIS/3617)* [Press Release]. Retrieved 14 June 2019 from: <https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/gadis3617.doc.htm>

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2018, November 6<sup>th</sup>). *Approving 8 Drafts on Conventional Arms, First Committee Urges States to Help Reduce Human Suffering by Upholding Treaty Commitments (GA/DIS/3618)* [Press Release]. Retrieved 14 June 2019 from: <https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/gadis3618.doc.htm>

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2018, November 8<sup>th</sup>) *First Committee Approves 27 Texts, Including 2 Proposing New Groups to Develop Rules for States on Responsible Cyberspace Conduct (GA/DIS/3619)* [Press Release]. Retrieved 14 June 2019 from: <https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/gadis3619.doc.htm>

United Nations, General Assembly. (n.d.). *About the General Assembly* [Website]. Retrieved 14 June 2019 from: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/index.shtml>

United Nations, General Assembly. (n.d.). *Disarmament and International Security (First Committee)*. [Website]. Retrieved 14 June 2019 from: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/first/index.shtml>

United Nations, General Assembly. (n.d.). *Functions and Powers of the General Assembly* [Website]. Retrieved 14 June 2019 from: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/background.shtml>

United Nations, General Assembly. (n.d.). *General Committee* [Website]. Retrieved 14 June 2019 from: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/general/general.shtml>

United Nations, General Assembly. (n.d.). *Revitalization of the General Assembly* [Website]. Retrieved 14 June 2019 from: <https://www.un.org/en/ga/revitalization/index.shtml>



United Nations, General Assembly, First session. (1946). *Establishment of A Commission to Deal With the Problems Raised by the Discovery of Atomic Energy (A/RES/1/(1))*, [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the First Committee. Retrieved 14 June 2019 from: [https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/1\(I\)](https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/1(I))

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixth session. (1952). *Regulation, Limitation and Balanced Reduction of all Armed Forces and all Armaments; International Control of Atomic Energy (A/RES/502(VI))* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the First Committee. Retrieved 14 June 2019 from: [http://undocs.org/A/RES/502\(VI\)](http://undocs.org/A/RES/502(VI))

United Nations, General Assembly, Fourteenth session. (1959). *General and Complete Disarmament (A/RES/1378(XIV))* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the First Committee. Retrieved 14 June 2019 from: [http://undocs.org/A/RES/1378\(XIV\)](http://undocs.org/A/RES/1378(XIV))

United Nations, General Assembly, Twenty-fourth session. (1969). *Question of General and Complete Disarmament (A/RES/2602(XXIV))* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the First Committee. Retrieved 14 June 2019 from: [http://undocs.org/A/RES/2602\(XXIV\)](http://undocs.org/A/RES/2602(XXIV))

United Nations, General Assembly, Tenth Special Session. (1978). *Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly (S-10/2)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Tenth Special Session. Retrieved 14 June 2019 from: <http://undocs.org/A/S-10/4>

United Nations, General Assembly, Forty-seventh session. (1993). *Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly (A/RES/47/233)* [Resolution]. Adopted Without Reference to a Main Committee Retrieved 14 June 2019 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/47/233>

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-eighth session. (2014). *Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly (A/RES/68/307)* [Resolution]. Adopted without reference to a Main Committee. Retrieved 14 June 2019 from: <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/68/307>

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-first session. (2016). *Proposed Strategic Framework for the Period of 2018-2019, Par Two: Biennial Programme Plan, Programme 3: Disarmament (A/71/6(Prog.3))*. Retrieved 14 June 2019 from: [http://www.undocs.org/A/71/6\(prog.3\)](http://www.undocs.org/A/71/6(prog.3))

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-first session. (2017). *Biennial Programme Plan and Priorities for the Period 2018-2019 (A/71/6/Rev.1)*. Retrieved 14 June 2019 from: <https://undocs.org/A/71/6/Rev.1>

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-second session. (2017). *Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly (A/RES/71/313)* [Resolution]. Adopted Without Reference to a Main Committee. Retrieved 14 June 2019 from: <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/72/313>

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-third session. (n.d.) *Resolutions of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Session*. [Website] Retrieved 14 June 2019 from: <https://www.un.org/en/ga/73/resolutions.shtml>

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-third session. (2018). *Advancing Responsible State Behaviour in Cyberspace in the Context of International Security (A/RES/73/266)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the First Committee (A/73/505). Retrieved 14 June 2019 from: <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/73/266>

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-third session. (2018). *Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (A/RES/73/87)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the First Committee (A/73/517). Retrieved 14 June 2019 from: <https://undocs.org/A/RES/73/87>

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-third session. (2018). *Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Chemical Weapons and on Their*



*Destruction (A/RES/73/45)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the First Committee (A/73/45). Retrieved 14 June 2019 from: <https://undocs.org/A/RES/73/45>

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-third session. (2018). *Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunication in the Context of Information Security (A/RES/73/27)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the First Committee (A/73/505) Retrieved 14 June 2019 from: <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/73/27>

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-third session. (2018). *Documents of the First Committee (A/C.1/73/INF/1)* [Note by the Secretariat]. Retrieved 14 June 2019 from: <https://undocs.org/en/A/C.1/73/INF/1>

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-third session. (2018). *Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (A/RES/73/30)*. [Resolution] Adopted on the Report of the First Committee. (A/73/508) Retrieved 14 June 2019 from: <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/73/30>

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-third session. (2018). *Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly (A/73/INF/4)*. [Note by the Secretariat] Retrieved 14 June 2019 from: <https://undocs.org/en/A/C.1/73/INF/4>

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-third session. (2018). *Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (A/RES/73/48)*. [Resolution] Adopted on the Report of the First Committee (A/73/510) Retrieved 14 June 2019 from: <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/73/48>

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-third session. (2018). *United Nations Disarmament Fellowship, Training and Advisory Services (A/RES/73/73)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the First Committee (A/73/511). Retrieved 14 June 2019 from: <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/73/73>

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-third session. (2019). *List of Draft Proposals for the 73<sup>rd</sup> Session [Website]* Retrieved 14 June 2019 from: <https://www.un.org/en/ga/first/73/pdf/draftproposals.pdf>

United Nations Office at Geneva. (2009). *An Introduction to the Conference* [Website]. Retrieved 14 June 2019 from: <http://www.unog.ch/80256EE600585943/%28httpPages%29/BF18ABFEFE5D344DC1256F3100311CE9?OpenDocument>

United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. (n.d.). *About Us* [Website]. Retrieved 14 June 2019 from: <http://www.un.org/disarmament/about/>

United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. (n.d.). *Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons* [Website]. Retrieved 14 June 2019 from: <https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/tpnw/>

United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. (n.d.). *United Nations Disarmament Commission* [Website]. Retrieved 14 June 2019 from: <https://www.un.org/disarmament/institutions/disarmament-commission/>

United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. (2016). *Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security* [Website]. Retrieved 14 June 2019 from: <https://www.un.org/disarmament/topics/informationsecurity/>

United Nations, Office for Disarmament Affairs (2017). *Disarmament: A Basic Guide 4<sup>th</sup> Edition* [Report] Retrieved 14 June 2019 from: <https://s3.amazonaws.com/unoda-web/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Basic-Guide-4th-Edition-web1.pdf>

United Nations, Office for Disarmament Affairs (2017). *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook. Vol 42. Part II* [Report] Retrieved 14 June 2019 from:



<https://s3.amazonaws.com/unoda-web/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/en-yb-vol-42-2017-part2.pdf>

Weis, T. et al. (2004). *The United Nations and Changing World Politics*. Boulder: Westview Press.

## I. Towards a Nuclear Weapons Free World: Accelerating Disarmament and Nonproliferation

### **Introduction**

The first functional nuclear bomb was developed by the United States' Manhattan Project in 1945 and, that same year, the technology was used in warfare on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, demonstrating the immense destructive nature of nuclear weapons.<sup>69</sup> A nuclear weapon is a device that releases explosive energy as a result of nuclear fission, fusion, or a combination of the two.<sup>70</sup> In addition to potentially causing massive damage and large-scale casualties, detonated nuclear weapons release significant amounts of radiation, affecting the health of nearby populations and the natural environment for years.<sup>71</sup> The effects of the use of nuclear weapons on Hiroshima and Nagasaki demonstrated the legitimate threat that nuclear weapons represent to the world.<sup>72</sup> Although many experts believe that the permanent threat of nuclear weapons is contradictory to achieving sustainable peace, others maintain that nuclear weapons serve as a deterrent to direct and large-scale conflict.<sup>73</sup>

According to the Arms Control Association, United Nations (UN) Member States that possess some form of nuclear weapons are the United States of America, the United Kingdom, France, Israel, Pakistan, India, Russia, China, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.<sup>74</sup> Knowing the consequences of the use of nuclear weapons, the UN has committed to the complete eradication of nuclear weapons to provide for a more secure world and ensure the wellbeing of humanity.<sup>75</sup> This goal sets the foundation for disarmament and non-proliferation, with "disarmament" referring to the full eradication of nuclear weapons in the world and "non-proliferation" aiming to limit the creation of more nuclear devices.<sup>76</sup> The current state of global nuclear arms control depends on the ability and willingness of Member States to work together to further prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and to decrease existing arsenals and delivery systems.<sup>77</sup>

### **International and Regional Framework**

Since 1945, there have been extensive efforts and instruments created to limit the impact of nuclear weapons, with complete disarmament as the ultimate goal.<sup>78</sup> The *Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons* (NPT) (1968) is the bedrock for global nuclear non-proliferation efforts and was created to limit the levels of nuclear proliferation.<sup>79</sup> The goal of the NPT is to halt the production and spread of nuclear weapons and encourage global denuclearization.<sup>80</sup> While the NPT stands as an important framework for nuclear strategy, it is not universal; some Member States are not signatories to the NPT.<sup>81</sup> The NPT is reviewed every five years at meetings called the Review Conferences (RevCon).<sup>82</sup> The next NPT RevCon will be held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York in 2020 and three preparatory

---

<sup>69</sup> Encyclopedia Britannica, *The Effects of Nuclear Weapons*, 2018.

<sup>70</sup> Ibid.

<sup>71</sup> Ibid.

<sup>72</sup> UN News Centre, *At Security Council, Ban calls for eradicating weapons of mass-destruction 'once and for all'*, 2016.

<sup>73</sup> Encyclopedia Britannica, *The Effects of Nuclear Weapons*, 2018.

<sup>74</sup> Encyclopedia Britannica, *The Effects of Nuclear Weapons*, 2018. Arms Control Association, *Nuclear Weapons: Who Has What at a Glance*, 2018.

<sup>75</sup> UN General Assembly, *Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons*, 1968.

<sup>76</sup> Ibid.

<sup>77</sup> Ibid.

<sup>78</sup> UN News Centre, *At Security Council, Ban calls for eradicating weapons of mass-destruction 'once and for all'*, 2016.

<sup>79</sup> UN General Assembly, *Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons*, 1968.

<sup>80</sup> Ibid.

<sup>81</sup> Council on Foreign Relations, *The Global Nuclear Non-Proliferation Regime*, 2013.

<sup>82</sup> UN, General Assembly, Seventieth session, *2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its Preparatory Committee (A/RES/70/28)*, 2015.

meetings are being held prior to the 2020 RevCon.<sup>83</sup> The purpose of the first two Preparatory Committee sessions, held in 2017 and 2018, are to consider principles, objectives and ways to promote the full implementation of the Treaty, as well as its universality, and to make recommendations for the RevCon.<sup>84</sup> The third session, due to be held in 2019, is specifically mandated to produce a consensus report containing recommendations from the 2017 and 2018 Preparatory Committee sessions.<sup>85</sup>

In addition to the NPT RevCons, there is significant historical precedent for bilateral negotiations on nuclear weapons, such as the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT I, 1969; SALT II, 1979) between the United States and the Soviet Union for the reduction of each country's nuclear arsenal during the Cold War.<sup>86</sup> The product of these talks was an agreement that laid the foundation for future nuclear negotiations, and emphasized the need for multilateral collaboration.<sup>87</sup> At the regional level, several Member States and organizations have created Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones (NWFZs), which function as regions wherein Member States agree to not manufacture, possess, or use nuclear weapons.<sup>88</sup> Currently, five regional NWFZs exist and include the *Treaty of Tlatelolco* (1967) in the Latin America and Caribbean, the *Treaty of Rarotonga* (1985) in the South Pacific, the *Treaty of Bangkok* (1995) in Southeast Asia, the *Treaty of Pelindaba* (1996) in the African continent, and the *Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty* (2006).<sup>89</sup> The establishment of NWFZs was a major step forward towards strengthening international nuclear safety and promoting nuclear norms on the regional level.<sup>90</sup> Previous NPT RevCons have identified establishing a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East as a major priority for global disarmament and nonproliferation.<sup>91</sup>

The 1996 *Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty* (CTBT) is an important framework that has strengthened international norms against testing nuclear weapons through the creation of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban-Treaty Organization (CTBTO).<sup>92</sup> The CTBT has yet to enter into force due to only 36 of the required 44 Annex 2 countries, which are identified as members of the Conference on Disarmament that have nuclear energy programs, having ratified its provisions.<sup>93</sup> Another framework that focuses on nuclear disarmament is the Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT), a proposed international treaty that would prohibit the production of two main components of nuclear weapons: highly-enriched uranium and plutonium.<sup>94</sup> In 2017, the General Assembly adopted the *Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons*, the first legally binding international agreement to comprehensively prohibit nuclear weapons.<sup>95</sup> The treaty outlines prohibitions, declarations, safeguards, implementation, and other mechanisms to ensure the move towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons.<sup>96</sup> It is important to note that in the vote on the treaty text, 122 Member States voted in favor and 69 others did not vote.<sup>97</sup> All Member States that possessed nuclear weapons were among those who did not vote.<sup>98</sup>

---

<sup>83</sup> UN, General Assembly, Seventieth session, *2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its Preparatory Committee (A/RES/70/28)*, 2015.

<sup>84</sup> Ibid.

<sup>85</sup> Ibid.

<sup>86</sup> Nuclear Threat Initiative, *Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT)*, 2011.

<sup>87</sup> Ibid.

<sup>88</sup> Arms Control Association, *Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones (NWFZ) At a Glance*, 2017.

<sup>89</sup> Ibid.

<sup>90</sup> UNODA, *Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones*, 2014.

<sup>91</sup> Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, *2019 NPT Briefing Book*, 2019.

<sup>92</sup> UNODA, *Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)*.

<sup>93</sup> Ibid.

<sup>94</sup> Arms Control Association, *Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty at a Glance*, 2018.

<sup>95</sup> UN Conference to Negotiate a Legally Binding Instrument to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons, Leading Towards Their Total Elimination, *Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (A/CONF.229/2017/8)*, 2017.

<sup>96</sup> Ibid.

<sup>97</sup> Ibid.

<sup>98</sup> Ibid.

### ***Role of the International System***

The United Nations Office on Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) helps to promote nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation, strengthen disarmament regimes, and support efforts to eliminate weapons of mass destruction.<sup>99</sup> UNODA also provides objective, impartial, and up-to-date information on multilateral disarmament issues and activities to Member States, international institutions, civil society, and the public.<sup>100</sup> Similarly, there are non-UN institutions that work on nuclear disarmament like the Conference on Disarmament (CD) and the CTBTO.<sup>101</sup> The CD was recognized in 1978 as the single multilateral disarmament forum of the international community.<sup>102</sup> The CD meets and reports to the UN General Assembly annually and has negotiated major multilateral arms limitation and disarmament treaties.<sup>103</sup> The CTBTO, founded in 1996 and headquartered in Vienna, is an international organization formed by States party to the CTBT and maintains a global system of sensors that can detect nuclear explosions everywhere on Earth's surface, in the atmosphere, underwater and underground.<sup>104</sup> This system has been effective in deterring nuclear weapons tests through being able to accurately identify the location of nuclear explosions and thereby increasing scrutiny of such activities.<sup>105</sup>

In 2003, the Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission (WMDC) was created to help track and eliminate weapons of mass destruction until its final meeting in 2009.<sup>106</sup> The six years of WMDC's research continues to play a key role in high-level negotiations on creating a world free of nuclear weapons, including within the General Assembly First Committee.<sup>107</sup> Furthermore, the voluntarily funded UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) helps to conduct independent research and relevant studies on the development and use of nuclear weapons.<sup>108</sup> UNIDIR reports annually to the General Assembly with guidance on resolution-drafting processes related to global nuclear disarmament.<sup>109</sup> IAEA is another organization that is mandated to develop nuclear safety standards and to verify Member States' compliance with their own commitments through inspections.<sup>110</sup>

Prior to the adoption of the NPT, the IAEA was established in 1957 as an independent organization that aims to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy.<sup>111</sup> It is mandated to assist Member States in utilizing nuclear technology and its applications for socio-economic benefits, promote best-practices and standards for nuclear safety and security, and to implement a safeguards regime that inspects and verifies that nuclear programs are used for peaceful purposes.<sup>112</sup> In order to carry out these complex inspections, the IAEA has safeguards in place to verify states' legal obligations to the proper use of their nuclear facilities.<sup>113</sup> Under the NPT, non-nuclear weapons states are required to conclude a safeguards agreement with the IAEA.<sup>114</sup>

### ***Nuclear Non-proliferation: The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action of 2015***

The *Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action* (JCPOA) (2015) was a nonproliferation agreement meant to have the Islamic Republic of Iran become compliant with the NPT and IAEA safeguards in order to verify

---

<sup>99</sup> UNODA, *Overview*, 2019.

<sup>100</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>101</sup> Comprehensive Test-Ban-Treaty Organization, *Who We Are*.

<sup>102</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>103</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>104</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>105</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>106</sup> UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament, *Weapons of Mass Destruction*, 2019.

<sup>107</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>108</sup> UN Institute for Disarmament Research, *United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research*, 2019.

<sup>109</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>110</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>111</sup> International Atomic Energy Agency, *About Us*, 2019.

<sup>112</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>113</sup> International Atomic Energy Agency, *Safeguards Explained*, 2019.

<sup>114</sup> UN General Assembly, *Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons*, 1968.

that it would not use its nuclear program to make a weapon.<sup>115</sup> Prior to the agreement, Iran, a member of the IAEA and signatory to the NPT, was believed to be cultivating highly enriched uranium in an effort to create a nuclear weapon.<sup>116</sup> In 2011 the IAEA found credible evidence that Iran was not compliant with its NPT safeguards agreement.<sup>117</sup> The international community viewed this breach of compliance and the potential development of another nuclear state that could pose as a threat to international peace and security, as well as delineation from the progress towards global nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation.<sup>118</sup> In order to successfully invite Iran back to the negotiating table, key actors in the global system such as the United States of America, Russia Federation, France, the United Kingdom, China, Germany, and the European Union offered to broker a deal with Iran by offering to dismantle existing economic sanctions in return for its strict compliance to the NPT and IAEA safeguards.<sup>119</sup> This resulted in an agreement, the JCPOA, in which Iran received relief from its economic sanctions and in return agreed to limit its uranium enrichment with strict verification measures and frequent inspections by the IAEA, aligning Iran with global non-proliferation standards.<sup>120</sup>

However, in May 2018, the United States of America (U.S.) withdrew from the agreement, and in November of the same year, reinstated economic sanctions on Iran.<sup>121</sup> The United Kingdom, Germany, and France have since worked with Iran to develop alternative payment mechanisms aimed at helping international companies trade with Iran without facing U.S. penalties.<sup>122</sup> This success in high-level negotiations prior to the new U.S. administration's reversal, was shown through the IAEA's quarterly reports which outlined Iran's compliance with its safeguards agreement.<sup>123</sup> However, in July of 2019, a year after the United States' withdrawal, Iran officially began enriching uranium above the threshold allowed in the JCPOA.<sup>124</sup> According to nonproliferation experts, compliance with nuclear norms is eroding.<sup>125</sup> Given the current state of political instability and the international community's desire for a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons, upholding the provisions of the JCPOA has been identified of one of the most pressing concerns in advancing nonproliferation.<sup>126</sup>

### **Civil Society's Involvement & Nuclear Disarmament**

Civil society organizations (CSOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) also play a role in steering the international debate from nuclear non-proliferation towards total nuclear disarmament through lobbying governments and campaigning for political change.<sup>127</sup> The rising concern of the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons and need for disarmament is where civil society has brought an energized voice to the nuclear disarmament debate.<sup>128</sup> CSOs commonly work with Member States and the UN system to find new ways to develop a new legal instruments that prevent the possession and use of nuclear weapons by any Member State.<sup>129</sup> For instance, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) works to spread knowledge of nuclear weapons in various countries and pressure governments to halt the creation and distribution of nuclear weapons.<sup>130</sup>

---

<sup>115</sup> The Washington Post, *Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action*, 2015.

<sup>116</sup> Ibid.

<sup>117</sup> International Atomic Energy Agency, Board of Governors, *Implementation of the NPT Safeguards Agreement and Relevant Provisions of Security Council Resolutions in the Islamic Republic of Iran*, 2011.

<sup>118</sup> The Washington Post, *Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action*, 2015.

<sup>119</sup> Ibid.

<sup>120</sup> Ibid.

<sup>121</sup> BBC, *Iran Nuclear Deal: Key Details*, 2019.

<sup>122</sup> Ibid.

<sup>123</sup> Laub, *The Impact of the Iran Nuclear Agreement*, 2018.

<sup>124</sup> Brumfield & Van Sant, *Iran's Uranium Enrichment Breaks Nuclear Deal Limit. Here's What That Means*, 2019.

<sup>125</sup> Davenport & Sander-Zakre, *Assessing Progress on Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament*, 2019.

<sup>126</sup> Ibid.

<sup>127</sup> International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, *Overview*, 2019.

<sup>128</sup> UNODA, *Civil Society Engagement in Disarmament Process the Case for a Nuclear Weapons Ban*, 2016.

<sup>129</sup> UNODA, *Civil Society Engagement in Disarmament Process the Case for a Nuclear Weapons Ban*, 2016.

<sup>130</sup> International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, *Overview*, 2019.

ICAN is especially important, as it was a crucial advocate for the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.<sup>131</sup> Other CSOs provide expert guidance and thought-leadership on nuclear matters.<sup>132</sup> The Arms Control Association (ACA) is an example of a non-partisan organization working to advance credible research on the topic.<sup>133</sup> The ACA produces research documents, briefers, and reports that inform the international community on the current situation pertaining to arms control.<sup>134</sup> Similarly, the Nuclear Threat Initiative submits publications, reports, and data on the level of nuclear activity around the world.<sup>135</sup> The organization aids policymakers by submitting relevant reports pertaining to the issues and work towards reaching an informed and efficient decision.<sup>136</sup> NGOs are authorized to attend non-closed meetings at the NPT RevCon and often bring expertise and viewpoints that are not otherwise expressed.<sup>137</sup>

### **Conclusion**

While there has been some international success in the reduction of nuclear capability and the promotion of non-proliferation norms, many challenges remain to total disarmament.<sup>138</sup> The lack of adherence to international guidelines by some Member States continues to remain a big challenge when attempting to reach an international agreement on nuclear disarmament.<sup>139</sup> The 2015 JCPOA demonstrated that it is possible to come to an agreement pertaining to nuclear weapons their non-proliferation.<sup>140</sup> Civil society has been very adamant on total nuclear disarmament, and actively brings their ideas to the international debate via their UNODA publications and organizations like ICAN.<sup>141</sup> Preventing the spread of nuclear weapons and how to hold states and non-state actors accountable for violating international norms will continue to be discussed in the General Assembly First Committee.<sup>142</sup>

### **Further Research**

Given the current challenges to global nuclear disarmament, delegates should consider some key questions while beginning research, including: How should the international community address the lack of adherence of Member States to international norms and preexisting agreements on nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation? How should the General Assembly First Committee address civil society's concerns to view nuclear disarmament as a humanitarian issue? What are some of the methods that the UN General Assembly First Committee can foster dialogue for greater international collaboration on nuclear matters?

## **Annotated Bibliography**

Council on Foreign Relations. (2016). *The Global Nuclear Non-Proliferation Regime*. Retrieved 8 April 2019 from: <http://www.cfr.org/nonproliferation-arms-control-and-disarmament/global-nuclear-nonproliferation-regime/p18984>

*This briefing report by the Council on Foreign Relations discusses the history of the global nuclear non-proliferation global movement along with its successes and failures. It provides a detailed perspective the history of nuclear weapons, the beginning of the non-*

---

<sup>131</sup> Ibid.

<sup>132</sup> UNODA, *Civil Society Engagement in Disarmament Process the Case for a Nuclear Weapons Ban*, 2016.

<sup>133</sup> Arms Control Association, *Overview*, 2019.

<sup>134</sup> Ibid.

<sup>135</sup> International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, *Overview*, 2019.

<sup>136</sup> Ibid.

<sup>137</sup> Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, *2019 NPT Briefing Book*, 2019.

<sup>138</sup> BBC, *North Korea nuclear tests: what did they achieve?*, 2017.

<sup>139</sup> International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, *United Nations Resolution to ban Nuclear Weapons in 2017*, 2016.

<sup>140</sup> Ibid.

<sup>141</sup> UNODA, *Civil Society Engagement in Disarmament Process the Case for a Nuclear Weapons Ban*, 2016.

<sup>142</sup> International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, *United Nations Resolution to ban Nuclear Weapons in 2017*, 2016.

*proliferation movement, and the most recent steps towards non-proliferation. The main benefit from this document is its detailed sections that provide a very simple outline and flow towards understanding the timeline of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. Additionally, this research presents some options to strengthen the nonproliferation regime, which delegates will find useful when working on their own research.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Twenty-second session. (1968). Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (A/RES/2373 (XXII)). Retrieved 8 April 2019 from:

<https://www.iaea.org/sites/default/files/publications/documents/infcircs/1970/infcirc140.pdf>

*This treaty is the most important document to date on international guidelines for nonproliferation, including stipulations for Member States and a list of all signatories. The treaty divides international opinion on the basis of security and national self-determination, since there are notable exceptions for Member States who have not signed it. It will be crucial for delegates to understand and use this document as the bedrock for all treaties relating to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.*

United Nations General Assembly, Fifty-fifth session. (2001). *General and complete disarmament (A/RES/55/33)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the First Committee (A/55/33). Retrieved 10 April 2019 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/55/33>

*This resolution is the reason why biological weapons are currently banned in warfare. The threat of nuclear weapons can be included as of equal importance to biological weapons in warfare. This resolution draws parallels between biological and nuclear weapons and provides delegates with a good foundation for proposed resolutions on this topic. Additionally, this resolution calls for parties to limit the deployment of anti-ballistic missile systems, as well as calling for non-proliferation measures. It is important for delegates to use this UN General Assembly resolution as it will help build a framework of precedent on how the international community banned poisonous and biological weapons.*

United Nations, General Assembly. (2015). *Universal Declaration on the Achievement of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World (A/RES/70/57)*. Adopted on the report of the First Committee (A/70/460). Retrieved 8 April 2019 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/70/57>

*This is the key document of the UN that describes the organizations' end goal of a nuclear weapon-free world. Having a good understanding of this document and its aims is critical to understanding the future goals of the international community on disarmament. Delegates will be able to use this document as a core from which to base their research, and to understand international negotiations on nuclear disarmament.*

United Nations, Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference. (2015). *2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)* [Report]. Retrieved 9 April 2019 from: <http://www.un.org/en/conf/npt/2015/>

*This report offers recent developments pertaining to the NPT, discusses what Member States agreed during the 2015 conference, and what still remains to be addressed before the next Review Conference in 2020. Additionally, this page provides useful historical context as this is the bedrock nuclear non-proliferation treaty. Delegates would find this source particularly helpful since most of the working papers produced dealt with security assurances pertaining to nuclear capability, nuclear testing activities, and various safeguards that must be implemented.*

## Bibliography

Arms Control Association. (2017). *Nuclear-Weapon Free Zones (NWFZ) At a Glance* [Website]. Retrieved 9 June 2019 from: <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/nwfz>

Arms Control Association. (2018). *Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty at a Glance* [Website]. Retrieved 15 June 2019 from: <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/fmct>



Arms Control Association. (2018). *Nuclear Weapons: Who Has What at a Glance* [Website]. Retrieved 9 June 2019 from: <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/Nuclearweaponswhohaswhat>

Arms Control Association. (2019). *Arms Control Association* [Website]. Retrieved 29 April 2019 from: <https://www.armscontrol.org/>

BBC. *North Korea nuclear tests: what did they achieve?* (2017). Retrieved 29 April 2019 from: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-17823706>

BBC. *Iran Nuclear Deal: Key Details*. (2019). Retrieved 7 May 2019 from: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-33521655>

Brumfield, G. and Van Sant, S. (2019). *Iran's Uranium Enrichment Breaks Nuclear Deal Limit. Here's What That Means*. Retrieved 20 July 2019 from: <https://www.npr.org/2019/07/07/738902822/irans-uranium-enrichment-breaks-nuclear-deal-limit-here-s-what-that-means>

Cochran, T. (2018). *Encyclopedia Britannica: Nuclear Weapon*. *Encyclopedia Britannica*. Retrieved 29 April 2019 from: <https://www.britannica.com/technology/nuclear-weapon>

Council on Foreign Relations. (2013). *The Global Nuclear Non-Proliferation Regime*. Retrieved 9 April 2019 from: <http://www.cfr.org/nonproliferation-arms-control-and-disarmament/global-nuclear-nonproliferationregime/p18984>

Comprehensive Test-Ban-Treaty Organization. (n.d.). *Who We Are* [Website]. Retrieved 20 July 2019 from: <https://www.ctbto.org/specials/who-we-are/>

Davenport, K. (2019). *The Impact: Iran Breaches Nuclear Deal*. Retrieved 20 July 2019 from: <https://www.armscontrol.org/blog/2019-07-15/impact-iran-breaches-nuclear-deal>

Davenport, K. and Sander-Zakre, A. (2019). *Assessing Progress on Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament*. 20 July 2019 from: [https://www.armscontrol.org/sites/default/files/files/Reports/Report\\_2019July\\_ReportCard\\_1.pdf](https://www.armscontrol.org/sites/default/files/files/Reports/Report_2019July_ReportCard_1.pdf)

Diplomatic Conference of the Convention on Nuclear Safety. (2015). *Vienna Declaration on Nuclear Safety*. Retrieved 29 April 2019 from: [https://www.iaea.org/sites/default/files/cns\\_viennadeclaration090215.pdf](https://www.iaea.org/sites/default/files/cns_viennadeclaration090215.pdf)

Donovan, J. (2016). *Diplomatic Conference*. *International Atomic Energy Agency*. Retrieved 9 April 2019 from: <https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/vienna-declaration-nuclear-safety-adopted-diplomatic-conference>

Encyclopedia Britannica. (2018). *Effects of Nuclear Weapons*. Retrieved 9 April 2019 from: <https://www.britannica.com/technology/nuclear-weapon/The-effects-of-nuclear-weapons>

Encyclopedia Britannica. (2018). *Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT)*. Retrieved 9 April 2019 from: <https://global.britannica.com/event/Strategic-Arms-Limitation-Talks>

Fischer, D. (1997). *International Atomic Energy Agency: The First Forty Years*. *International Atomic Energy Agency*. Retrieved 9 April 2019 from: [http://www-pub.iaea.org/MTCD/publications/PDF/Pub1032\\_web.pdf](http://www-pub.iaea.org/MTCD/publications/PDF/Pub1032_web.pdf)

Geneva Conference for the Supervision of the International Traffic in Arms. (1925). *Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare*. Retrieved 9 April 2019 from: <http://disarmament.un.org/treaties/t/1925>



International Atomic Energy Agency. (2019). *About Us* [Website]. Retrieved 19 June 2019 from: <https://www.iaea.org/about>

International Atomic Energy Agency. (2019). *Safeguards Explained* [Website]. Retrieved 19 June 2019 from: <https://www.iaea.org/topics/safeguards-explained>

International Atomic Energy Agency. (2011). *IAEA Forum for the Creation of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in the Middle East*. Retrieved 10 April 2019 from: <https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/forum-nuclear-weaponsfree-zone-middle-east-closes>

International Atomic Energy Agency, Board of Governors. (2011). *Implementation of the NPT Safeguards Agreement and relevant provisions of Security Council resolutions in the Islamic Republic of Iran*. Retrieved 6 July 2019 from: <https://www.iaea.org/sites/default/files/gov2011-65.pdf>

International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. (2019). *Overview*. 29 April 2019 from: <http://www.icanw.org/campaign/campaign-overview/>

International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. (2016). *United Nations Resolution to ban Nuclear Weapons in 2017*. Retrieved 29 April 2019 from: <http://www.icanw.org/campaign-news/draft-un-resolution-to-ban-nuclearweapons-in-2017/>

Laub, Z. (2018). *The Impact of the Iran Nuclear Agreement*. Retrieved 20 July 2019: <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/impact-iran-nuclear-agreement>

Nuclear Threat Initiative. (2011). *Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT I)* [Website]. Retrieved 29 April 2019 from: <http://www.nti.org/learn/treaties-and-regimes/strategic-arms-limitation-talks-salt-i-salt-ii/>

The Washington Post. (2015). *Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action*. Retrieved 29 April 2019 from: <http://apps.washingtonpost.com/g/documents/world/full-text-of-the-iran-nuclear-deal/1651/>

United Nations Conference to Negotiate a Legally Binding Instrument to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons, Leading Towards Their Total Elimination. (2017). *Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (A/CONF.229/2017/8)*. Retrieved 11 June 2019 from: <http://undocs.org/A/CONF.229/2017/8>

United Nations, General Assembly. (2019). *General Assembly First Committee* [Website]. Retrieved 29 April 2019 from: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/first>

United Nations, General Assembly. (2015). *Final Report of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT/CONF.2015/1)*. Retrieved 9 April 2019 from: [www.undocs.org/NPT/CONF.2015/1](http://www.undocs.org/NPT/CONF.2015/1)

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-ninth session. (2014). *Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction (A/RES/69/67)* [Resolution]. Adopted on report of the First Committee (A/69/440). Retrieved 9 April 2019 from: <http://www.undocs.org/A/RES/69/67>

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *United Action with renewed determination towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons (A/RES/70/40)* [Resolution]. Adopted on report of the First Committee (A/70/460). Retrieved April 9 2019 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/70/40>

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its Preparatory Committee (A/RES/70/28)* [Resolution]. Adopted on report of the First Committee (A/70/460). Retrieved 29 April 2019 from: <https://undocs.org/en/a/70/28>



United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research. (2019). *United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research* [Website]. Retrieved 29 April 2019 from: <http://www.unidir.org/>

United Nations News Centre. (2016). *At Security Council, Ban calls for eradicating weapons of mass destruction 'once and for all'* [News Article]. Retrieved 9 April 2019 from: <http://www.un.org/press/en/2016/sgsm17996.doc.htm>

United Nations Office at Geneva. (2019). *Conference on Disarmament* [Website]. Retrieved 19 June 2019 from: <https://www.unog.ch/cd>

United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. (n.d.). *Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)* [Website]. Retrieved 19 June 2019 from: <https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/ctbt/>

United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. (1959). *Antarctic Treaty*. Retrieved 29 April 2019 from: <http://disarmament.un.org/treaties/t/antarctic/text>

United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. (1963). *Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water*. Retrieved 8 April 2019 from: [http://disarmament.un.org/treaties/t/test\\_ban/text](http://disarmament.un.org/treaties/t/test_ban/text)

United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. (2016). *Civil Society Engagement in Disarmament Process, The Case for a Nuclear Weapons Ban* [Report]. Retrieved 19 June 2019 from: <https://s3.amazonaws.com/unoda-web/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/civil-society-2016.pdf>

United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. (2018). *Civil Society and Disarmament* [Website]. Retrieved 19 June 2019 from: <https://www.un.org/disarmament/publications/civilsociety/>

United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. (2019) *Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones* [Website]. Retrieved 29 April 2019 from: <https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/nwz/>

United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. (2019). *Overview* [Website]. Retrieved 29 April 2019 from: <https://www.un.org/disarmament/about/>

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament. (2019). *Weapons of Mass Destruction* [Website]. Retrieved 29 April 2019 from: <http://unrcpd.org/wmd/>

Uniting for Peace. (2019). *The Hague Agenda for Peace and Justice in the 21st Century*. Retrieved 10 April 2019 from: [https://www.unitingforpeace.com/important\\_documents/hague\\_agenda\\_for\\_peace.htm](https://www.unitingforpeace.com/important_documents/hague_agenda_for_peace.htm)

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. (2019). *2019 NPT Briefing Book*. Retrieved 20 July 2019 from: <http://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Publications/2019-npt-briefing-book.pdf>

## II. Ending the Use of Improvised Explosive Devices, Landmines, Cluster Munitions, and Other Explosives

### **Introduction**

Between 2011 and 2016, civilian deaths and injuries from explosive weapons increased by 48%, with nearly 50,000 casualties in 2016 alone.<sup>143</sup> Although the *Fourth Geneva Convention* (1949) requires the protection of civilians, explosive weapons and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) often kill or injure indiscriminately or affect unintended targets.<sup>144</sup> In addition to unintended effects United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) reports have indicated that non-state actors and rogue individuals are increasingly using IEDs against civilians and civilian objects as a means of inciting terror in populated areas.<sup>145</sup> IEDs, landmines, cluster munitions, and other explosive devices are also used to slow or prevent movement across specific areas, including of humanitarian aid; to kill and maim warring parties at small- and large-scales; to deny civilians access to food, water, health care, and trade; and to spoil agricultural land.<sup>146</sup> In response, the United Nations and several non-governmental organizations, such as the International Network on Explosive Weapons (INEW) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), monitor, report, and respond to instances of explosive weapons by working with Member States to promote regulatory practices and coordinate humanitarian aid in areas impacted by explosive weapons.<sup>147</sup>

The international community is currently aiming to strengthen measures to prevent the use of explosive weapons.<sup>148</sup> In 2018, 50 Member States issued a joint statement on the use of explosives weapons in populated areas (EWIPA) that emphasized their grossly inhumane impact, destruction to civilian life and reaffirmed their commitment to work with the United Nations (UN) and civil society in preventing their use.<sup>149</sup>

### **International and Regional Framework**

One of the core international frameworks that focuses on disarmament of explosive devices is the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (1983), also known as the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), and its Protocols.<sup>150</sup> This treaty provides guidance to Member States and the international community on which conventional weapons and explosives can be used under certain restrictions and which explosives cannot be used under any circumstance based on their inhumane and adverse effects to warring parties and civilians.<sup>151</sup> Notable protocols under the CCW include Protocol II, which regulates the use of mines against civilians and requires parties to remove mines once conflict has ended, and Protocol V, which requires parties that have used explosive weapons to provide information on their use of explosive weapons and to assist in the clearing of unexploded ordnances.<sup>152</sup> The Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and

<sup>143</sup> UNODA, *Securing Our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament*, 2018, p. 35.

<sup>144</sup> UNODA, *IEDs – a growing threat*, 2019; International Committee of the Red Cross, *The Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949*, 1980, p. 29.

<sup>145</sup> UNODA, *IEDs – a growing threat*, 2019.

<sup>146</sup> UNODA, *IEDs – a growing threat*, 2019; UNODA, *Improvised Explosive Weapons (IEDs)*, 2019; UNODA, *Landmines*, 2019.

<sup>147</sup> ICRC, *Mandate and mission*, 2019; International Network on Explosive Weapons, *About INEW*, 2019.

<sup>148</sup> Nason, *Joint Statement on Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas*, 2018.

<sup>149</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>150</sup> UN Conference on Prohibitions or Restrictions of the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, *Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (1983) and its Protocols*, 1983.

<sup>151</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>152</sup> UNODA, *Protocol II to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects*, 1983; UNODA, *Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the*

Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction (1999), also known as the Mine Ban Treaty, bans the production, use, stockpiling, and transfer of anti-personnel landmines due to the indiscriminate nature of the explosives.<sup>153</sup> There are currently 164 States party to the Mine Ban Treaty, with 33 UN Member States having not acceded to it.<sup>154</sup> A Convention similar to this convention is the Convention on Cluster Munitions (2010), which follows the same objectives, but for cluster bombs, which are explosives that release smaller explosives upon impact.<sup>155</sup> Further, the Convention on Cluster Munitions also provides guidance on clearing of contaminated areas, destroying cluster bomb stockpiles, and assisting victims of cluster bomb attacks.<sup>156</sup> Out of 108 signatories, 106 Member States are party to the Convention on Cluster Munitions.<sup>157</sup> In 2017 and 2018, the UN General Assembly passed resolution 72/36 and 73/67, both on “Countering the threat posed by improvised explosive devices”, to call for more international coordination to create national policies and frameworks that focus on civilian-military cooperation, engagement with the UN and other relevant institutions, elimination of stockpiles, and increased efforts to prevent the creation of IEDs.<sup>158</sup>

In 2017, the Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, their Ammunition, Parts and Components that can be used for their Manufacture, Repair or Assembly (Kinshasa Convention) was adopted in response to increased usage of explosive devices in Central Africa and neighboring states.<sup>159</sup> The Kinshasa Convention emphasized the promotion of women in disarmament and measures and practices to strengthen arms control in Central Africa.<sup>160</sup> In 2013, the European Union (EU) adopted Regulation No. 98/2013 on the “Marketing and Use of Explosive Precursors to reduce the amount of explosive precursors that are available on the open market as a means to prevent the creation of homemade explosive weapons.”<sup>161</sup> The EU also works with the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and the Iraqi authorities on mine and other explosive ordnances disposal in Iraq.<sup>162</sup> In 2018, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), ICRC, INEW, 23 Latin America and Caribbean Member States, and other civil society organizations met in Santiago, Chile to share information, best practices, and explore solutions in addressing use of EWIPA.<sup>163</sup> At the end of the meeting, the parties published the Santiago Communiqué from Regional Meeting on Protecting Civilians from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas, which focused on strengthening international cooperation with NGOs and civil society, established compliance measures and methods, and developed frameworks to protect hospitals, schools, and protected persons in relation to them.<sup>164</sup> Furthermore, the communiqué called for increased support in the process of negotiating and adopting an international political declaration on the use of explosive weapons in populated areas.<sup>165</sup>

---

*Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects (Protocol V), 2006.*

<sup>153</sup> Diplomatic Conference on an International Total Ban on Anti-Personnel Land Mines, *Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction*, 1999.

<sup>154</sup> International Campaign to Ban Landmines, *Treaty Status*, 2019.

<sup>155</sup> UN Office at Geneva, *Convention on Cluster Munitions*, 2019.

<sup>156</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>157</sup> UN Treaty Collection, *Convention on Cluster Munitions*, 2019.

<sup>158</sup> UN General Assembly, *Countering the threat posed by improvised explosive devices (A/RES/72/36)*, 2017; UN General Assembly, *Countering the threat posed by improvised explosive devices (A/RES/73/67)*, 2018.

<sup>159</sup> UN Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, *Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, their Ammunition and all Parts and Components that can be used for their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly*, 2017.

<sup>160</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>161</sup> European Union External Action, *EEAS Content*, 2019.

<sup>162</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>163</sup> International Network on Explosive Weapons, *Communique from Regional Meeting on Protecting Civilians from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas (Santiago, Chile)*, 2018.

<sup>164</sup> International Network on Explosive Weapons, *Communique from Regional Meeting on Protecting Civilians from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas (Santiago, Chile)*, 2018.

<sup>165</sup> *Ibid.*

## **Role of the International System**

The General Assembly First Committee focuses on disarmament and international security affairs and regularly works with the UNODA to coordinate efforts with Member States and the international community to prevent the production, use, stockpiling, and transfer of explosive weapons.<sup>166</sup> UNODA also provides important, up-to-date, and impartial information on multilateral efforts conducted by Member States, states party to multilateral agreements, civil society, the media, and the general public on the disarmament of small arms and light weapons and explosive devices.<sup>167</sup> UNMAS is a specialized service under the UN Department of Peace Operations that coordinates with relevant UN bodies and Member States to eliminate the threats of mines, explosive remnants of war, and IEDs in conflict areas or areas once affected by conflict.<sup>168</sup> In order to provide easier access to information in regards to UN-led and Member State-led efforts in demining, UNMAS created "E-Mine", a website designed to consolidate and update all information on current disarmament efforts of explosive weapons, reinforcing of peace and security, and promotion sustainable development.<sup>169</sup> UNMAS also created the *UN Mine Action Strategy 2019-2023* with the overarching goal of "protecting and assisting individuals and communities through the establishment of safe environments conducive to recovery, sustainable peace and development."<sup>170</sup> The UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) also works with UNODA, OCHA, UNMAS, Member States, and civil society organizations to develop new solutions to disarmament and international security issues.<sup>171</sup>

Recent use of EWIPAs in modern-day conflicts has become a focus of the Secretary-General's 2018 agenda, *Securing Our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament*.<sup>172</sup> OCHA convened three international expert consultations on the issue of EWIPA and created effective examples of military policy and practices that can reduce the use of EWIPA.<sup>173</sup> These practices and policies have been shared with military forces, such as the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan and the African Union (AU) Mission in Somalia, each of which have instituted policies that limit the use of explosives in certain contexts to minimize the impact on civilian life.<sup>174</sup> Along with the AU, The EU has recently secured a contract with UNODA to dispose of explosive weapons in Iraq through coordination with Iraqi authorities.<sup>175</sup> OCHA also works with INEW to promote the prevention of civilian harm from EWIPA through research, policy, and advocacy.<sup>176</sup> INEW coordinates with other civil societies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to provide development assistance, document the impact of EWIPA, assist with victims of EWIPA, and the removal and destruction of explosive weapons.<sup>177</sup>

## **Oversight and Prevention**

Although the UN has several frameworks and institutions in place that provide guidelines on minimizing the use of explosive weapons, their proliferation and use continues to rise.<sup>178</sup> Humanity & Inclusion, an NGO that focuses on assisting people with disabilities and vulnerable populations, noted at a Security Council open debate in 2015 that out of the 50 States and territories that have acknowledged the humanitarian impacts of EWIPA, only half have called for action to address the problem.<sup>179</sup> In some cases, governments deliberately use explosive weapons that violate international law and indiscriminately

<sup>166</sup> UNODA, *About Us*, 2019.

<sup>167</sup> Ibid.

<sup>168</sup> UNMAS, *Who we are*, 2019.

<sup>169</sup> E-Mine, *E-Mine*, 2019.

<sup>170</sup> UNMAS, *United Nations Mine Action Strategy 2019-2023*, 2019, p. 10.

<sup>171</sup> UNIDIR, *United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research*, 2019.

<sup>172</sup> OCHA, *Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas*, 2019; UNODA, *Securing Our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament*, 2018, p. viii.

<sup>173</sup> OCHA, *Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas*, 2019.

<sup>174</sup> Ibid.

<sup>175</sup> European Union External Action, *EEAS Content*, 2019.

<sup>176</sup> OCHA, *Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas*, 2019.

<sup>177</sup> International Network on Explosive Weapons, *About INEW*, 2019.

<sup>178</sup> UNODA, *Securing Our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament*, 2018, p. vii.

<sup>179</sup> Humanity and Inclusion, *UN Security Council: Governments Should Recognize the Impact of Explosive Weapons*, 2019.

target civilians when using these weapons.<sup>180</sup> With his 2018 disarmament agenda, the UN Secretary-General has sought to implement an international standard for use of explosive weapons and prevention of explosive weapons to decrease humanitarian impacts.<sup>181</sup> Within the Secretary-General's report, he called upon Member States and the international community to engage with regional organizations, to ensure the full participation of women in arms control and disarmament efforts, to empower youth in the prevention of the use of EWIPA and other explosive devices, and to enhance the role civil society and the private sector play in disarmament efforts.<sup>182</sup> While there are several international and regional conventions and legal frameworks that provide guidelines for disposal and regulation of explosive weapons, there are still Member States who have not acknowledged the harm caused by EWIPAs.<sup>183</sup>

### ***International Coordination on Prevention and Disarmament Efforts***

Emerging technology, such as 3D printing, artificial intelligence, and developments in materials science pose a new threat to disarmament efforts led by the international community.<sup>184</sup> Easy access to 3D printing and other materials science production units could allow non-state actors, rogue individuals, and warring parties to mass produce explosive weapons in a short amount of time and at a lesser cost.<sup>185</sup> The Secretary-General has encouraged engagement with scientists and innovators to leverage emerging technologies and innovations to find peaceful and responsible uses and prevent the proliferation of explosive weapons.<sup>186</sup> Accountability of governments in utilizing emerging technologies for peaceful objectives is another issue the Secretary-General seeks to address.<sup>187</sup> In his 2018 report, the Secretary-General called for governments to regularly include disarmament experts from NGOs and the private sector in panel discussions, forums, policy formation and enhancement, and in other areas that focus on the prevention and disarmament of explosive weapons.<sup>188</sup>

In recent years, UNMAS has increased their collaborative efforts with UN peacekeeping operations to eliminate landmines and explosive weapons in Africa, the Middle East, and in Latin America.<sup>189</sup> UNMAS has also promotes gender mainstreaming and the inclusion of women in disarmament processes and decision-making, and encourage Member States to include women in the process during disarmament initiatives in their country.<sup>190</sup> Under the Programme Global Shield, the International Criminal Police Organization, UNODC, and the World Customs Organization created a network with regional and multilateral communities to prevent the smuggling and proliferation of illicit materials that can be used to create IEDs.<sup>191</sup> OCHA often partners with INEW and other civil society organizations in developing practices and regulations for Member States to utilize in their legal frameworks and disarmament and disposal initiatives.<sup>192</sup> The General Assembly First Committee regularly meets to discuss proposed disarmament guidelines, recommendations for improving disarmament efforts, and follows the objectives of the Secretary-General's report on disarmament.<sup>193</sup> The First Committee also provides language that can be used for the annual UN General Assembly resolutions concerning disarmament affairs.<sup>194</sup>

---

<sup>180</sup> Goose, Deadly cargo: explosive weapons in populated areas, *Human Rights Watch*, 2014.

<sup>181</sup> UNODA, *Securing Our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament*, 2018, p. viii.

<sup>182</sup> UNODA, *Securing Our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament*, 2018, pp. 61-69.

<sup>183</sup> International Network on Explosive Weapons, *Political Response*, 2019.

<sup>184</sup> UNODA, *Securing Our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament*, 2018, pp. 52-53.

<sup>185</sup> UNODA, *Securing Our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament*, 2018, pp. 52-53.

<sup>186</sup> UNODA, *Securing Our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament*, 2018, pp. 53-54.

<sup>187</sup> UNODA, *Securing Our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament*, 2018, p. 55.

<sup>188</sup> UNODA, *Securing Our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament*, 2018, pp. 65-66.

<sup>189</sup> UN Peacekeeping, *Mine Action*, 2019.

<sup>190</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>191</sup> UN General Assembly, *Countering the threat posed by improvised explosive devices (A/RES/73/67)*, 2018.

<sup>192</sup> OCHA, *Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas*, 2019.

<sup>193</sup> UN, *General Assembly of the United Nations – Disarmament and International Security (First Committee)*, 2019.

<sup>194</sup> *Ibid.*

## Conclusion

Use of explosive weapons continues to rise, especially in populated areas, greatly affecting civilian life.<sup>195</sup> The UN and its bodies and agencies, including UNODA and UNMAS, and civil society seek to prevent the proliferation of explosive weapons and promote disarmament efforts around the world.<sup>196</sup> The Secretary-General's disarmament agenda focuses on enhancing international efforts in the prevention and disarmament efforts of explosive weapons through coordination between the UN, Member States, NGOs, and the private sector by focusing on key areas that include women and youth.<sup>197</sup> Prevention and oversight accountability of governments is emphasized by the Secretary-General's agenda and plays a vital role in reducing the humanitarian impacts of explosive weapons.<sup>198</sup>

## Further Research

In consideration of how the international community can end the use of explosive weapons, delegates should consider the following questions: How can Member States promote prevention of explosive weapons, especially in populated areas? How can the international community harness emerging technologies for peaceful uses instead of proliferation of explosive weapons? How can these emerging technologies be used in disarmament efforts? How can Member States and the international community incorporate women and the youth in explosive weapons disarmament efforts?

## Annotated Bibliography

Goose, S. (2014, December 18). Deadly cargo: explosive weapons in populated areas. *Human Rights Watch*. Retrieved 28 March 2019 from: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2014/12/30/deadly-cargo-explosive-weapons-populated-areas>

*Human Rights Watch's report on explosive weapons in populated areas provides a look into current ongoing conflicts and how governments and insurgents are using explosive weapons. The report also examines the impacts of explosive weapons on civilians' lives and the measures the international community is taking to prevent further use of explosive weapons in populated areas. Delegates can read this report to gain an understanding from the lens of a NGO on the issue, and potentially lead them to research further from NGOs that focus on prevention and disarmament of explosive weapons.*

United Nations Conference on Prohibitions or Restrictions of the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects. (1983). *Convention on Prohibiting or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects*. Retrieved 27 February 2019 from: <https://treaties.un.org/doc/Treaties/1983/12/19831202%2001-19%20AM/XXVI-2-revised.pdf>

*This convention, also known as the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, seeks to ban or restrict the use of specific weapons, such as explosive weapons, that can injure civilians indiscriminately or cause unjustifiable injury to combatants. The convention has several protocols, the most recent being Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War, which include the prohibition and restriction of landmines, cluster munitions, and improvised explosive devices. Delegates can use this source to understand a core-guiding framework that the UN system follows to end the use of explosive weapons.*

United Nations, Mine Action Service. (2019). *United Nations Mine Action Strategy 2019-2023* [Report]. Retrieved 27 February 2019 from:

[https://www.mineaction.org/sites/default/files/publications/un\\_mine\\_action\\_strategy\\_2019-2023\\_lr.pdf](https://www.mineaction.org/sites/default/files/publications/un_mine_action_strategy_2019-2023_lr.pdf)

*This strategy updates UNMAS' priorities and efforts in disarming landmines in the international community. The strategy aligns UNMAS' priorities to those of the Secretary-*

<sup>195</sup> OCHA, *Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas*, 2019.

<sup>196</sup> UNODA, *Securing Our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament*, 2018, p. 55.

<sup>197</sup> UNODA, *Securing Our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament*, 2018.

<sup>198</sup> UNODA, *Securing Our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament*, 2018, pp. 65-66.



*General's priorities in his disarmament agenda by focusing on coordinating with Member States and NGOs to promote disarmament education, disarmament efforts, and accountability of governments. Delegates can use this strategy to understand UNMAS' role in disarmament efforts of explosive weapons and lead them to consider policy recommendations for the committee.*

United Nations, Office of Disarmament Affairs. (2018). *Securing Our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament* [Report]. Retrieved 27 April 2019 from: <https://s3.amazonaws.com/unoda-web/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/sg-disarmament-agenda-pubs-page.pdf#view=Fit>

*This report outlines the Secretary-General's new agenda that focuses on disarmament efforts for the international community. Within the report, the Secretary-General discusses the impacts of explosive weapons on humanitarian life and provides recommendations for Member States to follow in order to promote the prevention and disarmament of explosive weapons. Delegates can review this report to gain an understanding of the Secretary-General's disarmament agenda and obtain ideas of how they can promote disarmament efforts in committee.*

United Nations, Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa. (2017). *Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and All Parts and Components That Can Be Used for Their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly*. Retrieved 27 February 2019 from: <http://disarmament.un.org/treaties/t/kinshasa/text>

*This regional framework was negotiated within the framework of the UN Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa is also known as the Kinshasa Convention. The convention aims to regulate small arms and light weapons (SALWs) and combat the illicit trade and trafficking of SALWs in Central Africa. Several articles of the convention seek to prevent the creation and use of explosive devices, mines, and cluster munitions. Delegates can utilize this source as a means to understand how regional cooperation can strengthen coordination in combatting explosive weapons.*

## Bibliography

Arms Control Association. (2017). *Cluster Munitions at a Glance* [Website]. Retrieved 28 March 2019 from: <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/clusterataglance>

Diplomatic Conference on an International Total Ban on Anti-Personnel Land Mines. (1999). *Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction*. Retrieved 22 April 2019 from: [https://treaties.un.org/doc/Treaties/1997/09/19970918%2007-53%20AM/Ch\\_XXVI\\_05p.pdf](https://treaties.un.org/doc/Treaties/1997/09/19970918%2007-53%20AM/Ch_XXVI_05p.pdf)

E-Mine. (2019). *E-Mine: UN Mine Action* [Website]. Retrieved 28 March 2019 from: <https://www.mineaction.org/en>

European Union External Action. (2019). *EEAS Content* [Website]. Retrieved 2 June from: [https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/un-geneva/47891/node/47891\\_hu](https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/un-geneva/47891/node/47891_hu)

Goose, S. (2014, December 18). *Deadly cargo: explosive weapons in populated areas*. *Human Rights Watch*. Retrieved 28 March 2019 from: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2014/12/30/deadly-cargo-explosive-weapons-populated-areas>

Humanity and Inclusion. (2019). *UN Security Council: Governments Should Recognize the Impact of Explosive Weapons*. *Humanity and Inclusion*. Retrieved 28 March 2019 from: [https://www.hi-us.org/un\\_security\\_council\\_governments\\_should\\_recognize\\_the\\_impact\\_of\\_explosive\\_weapons](https://www.hi-us.org/un_security_council_governments_should_recognize_the_impact_of_explosive_weapons)

International Campaign to Ban Landmines. (2019). *Treaty Status* [Website]. Retrieved 2 June 2019 from: <http://www.icbl.org/en-gb/the-treaty/treaty-status.aspx>



International Committee of the Red Cross. (1980). *The Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949*. Retrieved 30 June 2019 from: <https://www.icrc.org/en/doc/assets/files/publications/icrc-002-0173.pdf>

International Committee of the Red Cross. (2019). *Mandate and mission* [Website]. Retrieved 2 June 2019 from: <https://www.icrc.org/en/who-we-are/mandate>

International Network on Explosive Weapons. (2018). *Communiqué from Regional Meeting on Protecting Civilians from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas* (Santiago, Chile) [Website]. Retrieved 2 June 2019 from: <http://www.inew.org/communique-from-regional-meeting-on-protecting-civilians-from-the-use-of-explosive-weapons-in-populated-areas-santiago-chile/>

International Network on Explosive Weapons. (2019). *About Us* [Website]. Retrieved 28 March 2019 from: <http://www.inew.org/about-inew/>

International Network on Explosive Weapons. (2019). *Political Response* [Website]. Retrieved 2 June 2019 from: <http://www.inew.org/political-response/>

Nason, B. (2018). *Joint Statement on Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas*. Retrieved 28 March 2019 from: [https://s3.amazonaws.com/unoda-web/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/25Oct\\_EWIPA.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/unoda-web/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/25Oct_EWIPA.pdf)

United Nations. (2019). *General Assembly of the United Nations – Disarmament and International Security (First Committee)* [Website]. Retrieved 2 June 2019 from: <https://www.un.org/en/ga/first/>

United Nations. (2019). *Landmines* [Website]. Retrieved 28 March 2019 from: <https://web.archive.org/web/20170903114920/http://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/demining/index.html>

United Nations Conference on Prohibitions or Restrictions of the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects. (1983). *Convention on Prohibiting or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects*. Retrieved 27 February 2019 from: <https://treaties.un.org/doc/Treaties/1983/12/19831202%2001-19%20AM/XXVI-2-revised.pdf>

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-second session. (2017). *Countering the threat posed by improvised explosive devices (A/RES/72/36)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the First Committee (A/72/409). Retrieved 30 June 2019 from: <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/72/36>

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-second session. (2017). *Assistance in mine action (A/RES/72/75)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the Fourth Committee (A/72/444). Retrieved 27 February 2019 from: <https://undocs.org/A/RES/72/75>

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-third session. (2018). *Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (A/RES/73/54)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the First Committee (A/73/510 and A/73/510/Corr.1). Retrieved 27 February 2019 from: <https://undocs.org/A/RES/73/54>

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-third session. (2018). *Countering the threat posed by improvised explosive devices (A/RES/73/67)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the First Committee (A/73/510 and A/73/510/Corr.1). Retrieved 30 June 2019 from: <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/73/67>

United Nations, Mine Action Service. (2019). *Who we are* [Website]. Retrieved 28 March 2019 from: <https://unmas.org/en/who-we-are>

United Nations, Mine Action Service. (2019). *United Nations Mine Action Strategy 2019-2023* [Report]. Retrieved 27 February 2019 from:

[https://www.mineaction.org/sites/default/files/publications/un\\_mine\\_action\\_strategy\\_2019-2023\\_lr.pdf](https://www.mineaction.org/sites/default/files/publications/un_mine_action_strategy_2019-2023_lr.pdf)

United Nations, Office at Geneva. (2019). *Convention on Cluster Munitions* [Website]. Retrieved 22 April 2019 from:

[https://www.unog.ch/80256EE600585943/\(httpPages\)/F27A2B84309E0C5AC12574F70036F176?OpenDocument](https://www.unog.ch/80256EE600585943/(httpPages)/F27A2B84309E0C5AC12574F70036F176?OpenDocument)

United Nations, Office for Disarmament Affairs. (1983). *Protocol II to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects*. Retrieved 2 June 2019 from:

[http://disarmament.un.org/treaties/t/ccwc\\_p2](http://disarmament.un.org/treaties/t/ccwc_p2)

United Nations, Office for Disarmament Affairs. (2006). *Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects (Protocol V)*. Retrieved 2 June 2019 from: [http://disarmament.un.org/treaties/t/ccwc\\_p5](http://disarmament.un.org/treaties/t/ccwc_p5)

United Nations, Office for Disarmament Affairs. (2018). *Securing Our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament* [Report]. Retrieved 27 April 2019 from: <https://s3.amazonaws.com/unoda-web/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/sg-disarmament-agenda-pubs-page.pdf#view=Fit>

United Nations, Office for Disarmament Affairs. (2019). *About Us* [Website]. Retrieved 28 March 2019 from: <https://www.un.org/disarmament/about/>

United Nations, Office for Disarmament Affairs. (2019). *Cluster Munitions* [Website]. Retrieved 27 February 2019 from: <https://www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/clustermunitions/>

United Nations, Office for Disarmament Affairs. (2019). *Explosive weapons in populated areas* [Website]. Retrieved 27 February 2019 from: <https://www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/explosive-weapons/>

United Nations, Office for Disarmament Affairs. (2019). *IEDs – a growing threat* [Website]. Retrieved 28 March 2019 from: <https://www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/ieds-a-growing-threat/>

United Nations, Office for Disarmament Affairs. (2019). *Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs)* [Website]. Retrieved 27 February 2019 from: <https://www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/ieds/>

United Nations, Office for Disarmament Affairs. (2019). *Landmines* [Website]. Retrieved 27 February 2019 from: <https://www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/landmines/>

United Nations, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (2019). *Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas* [Website]. Retrieved 27 February 2019 from:

<https://www.unocha.org/es/themes/explosive-weapons-populated-areas>

United Nations Peacekeeping. (2019). *Mine Action* [Website]. Retrieved 2 June 2019 from:

<https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/mine-action>

United Nations, Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa. (2017). *Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and All Parts and Components That Can Be Used for Their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly*. Retrieved 27 February 2019 from:

<http://disarmament.un.org/treaties/t/kinshasa/text>

United Nations Treaty Collection. (2019). *Convention on Cluster Munitions* [Website]. Retrieved 2 June 2019 from:

[https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg\\_no=XXVI-6&chapter=26&lang=en](https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=XXVI-6&chapter=26&lang=en)