

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE

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SECRETARIAT

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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 29th annual BYU Model United Nations Conference and more importantly welcome to the General Assembly First Committee! Being selected as a participant at this conference speaks to what kind of a student you already are, so I congratulate you on your efforts and I am eager to see how this experience will shape your future endeavors.

My name is Olivia DeMordaunt and I am thrilled to work with you on the General Assembly First Committee (GA1), I will be serving as your director. I am a sophomore studying Mechanical Engineering at BYU and have recently returned from an 18-month mission in Sweden. I had the privilege of being a member of the BYU MUN collegiate team in 2015 representing the delegation of France on the Habitat III committee. The MUN experience has given me opportunities to push myself to develop skills that have given me confidence in every facet of life, and I'm certain it will do the same for you.

This year, the topics the committee will address are:

- I. Personal Data Protection and Online Privacy
- II. Addressing the Need to Pursue Worldwide Nuclear Nonproliferation

Both of these topics are of utmost importance and have an immediate and very personal impact on each and every citizen of the world. The General Assembly has responsibility over a wide range of imperative topics and issues, but these two have been particularly pressing in the international community. It is expected that you devote time and energy into researching these two topics so that you can come to the conference prepared to collaborate with other countries in establishing solutions and pursuing international peace.

The purpose of this background guide is to provide a starting point to then launch you into individual research. As you research, consider your countries' policies and point of view regarding these topics. This guide is organized by topic, with a list of questions after each section to help give direction as well as an annotated bibliography with useful sources to guide in the researching process.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions concerning the conference or the topics. I look forward to meeting you in October!

Olivia DeMordaunt
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Committee History

“Established in 1945 under the Charter of the United Nations, the General Assembly occupies a central position as the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations. Comprising all 193 Members of the United Nations, it provides a unique forum for multilateral discussion of the full spectrum of international issues covered by the Charter.”
-United Nations General Assembly

Introduction

The United Nations General Assembly was established as part of the of United Nations in the year 1945, and since then it has served an essential role in the function of the UN framework. The General Assembly is the most broad of the all the organizations but it’s goal remains clear, and powerful and is stated to, “provide a unique forum for multilateral discussion of the full spectrum of international issues covered by the [UN] Charter.”¹ The General Assembly is able to discuss a variety of issues from space exploration to world hunger and is often used as place for Member States to bring issues to be introduced for UN discussion.

According to the United Nations Charter of 1945, which, in the aftermath of World War II, outlined the role and function of the UN, “political independence” and “sovereign equality,” are of equal importance to the General Assembly.² That being said, the General Assembly deals specifically with those issues that require cooperation and coordination among many Member States. This means that each Member State is free to decide their own domestic and foreign policies with the UN being a peacemaker and a place for conflict resolution when conflict arises or when Member State policies or solutions require collective action.

During the immediate years following WWII, the world saw the prominent rise of several world superpowers. The General Assembly was established in order to give each Member State an equal voice so that when conflict rose between superpowers it would not overwhelm the problems faced by other smaller states. Since its establishment, the GA has contributed heavily to the success of the UN. Examples of some of these successes of the GA have been the UN Declaration of Human Rights, which has been called a “Magna Carta” for all mankind, and the “United for Peace” resolution, which allows for the UN to intervene in peacekeeping operations.³

In the most recent years, the General Assembly has been involved in re-evaluating the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), a set of international objectives that were initiated in 2000 pertaining to the improvement of the human condition around the world in areas such as public health and poverty relief. As the MDG are reevaluated, the GA will be involved in the creation of new sustainable development goals that will likely have a lasting impact on many

¹ “General Assembly of the United Nations.” UN.org <http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/background.shtml>

² “Charter of the United Nations.” UN.org <http://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/chapter-i/index.html>

³ CFR.org Staff. 2015. “The Role of the UN General Assembly.” *Council on Foreign Relations*. September 8, 2015 <http://www.cfr.org/international-organizations-and-alliances/role-un-general-assembly/p13490>³

Member States.

Powers and Functions

The General Assembly meets from September to December each year, although extra sessions can be organized as situation requires. Each Member State is entitled to one equal vote, and a simple majority is required for most issues, with the exception of issues involving peace and security, the election of Security Council and Economic and Social Council members, and budgetary matter, which require a two-thirds majority.⁴ The General Assembly strives to reach consensus on most issues, with adoption by acclamation being the preferred method of resolution adoption.⁵

Each session of the General Assembly is led by a President who is elected by the GA membership through a regional nomination rotation.⁶ The President controls all aspects regarding procedure of GA debate and is able to limit or extend discussion as he sees necessary. He also facilitates many bilateral negotiations between Member States in order to make progress towards consensus. The United Nations Secretary General acts as the chief administrative officer of the General Assembly, and is elected by the General Assembly, after being nominated by the Security Council.⁷

While the purpose of the UN General Assembly involves nearly all aspects of international striving for peace, it is an organization that is mainly concerned with making recommendations. These recommendations have evolved into sustainable solutions for much of the UN community. According to the Charter of the United Nations, which served as the founding document for the General Assembly, the roles of the GA are to:

- I. Consider and approve the United Nations budget and establish the financial assessments of Member States;
- II. Elect the non-permanent members of the Security Council and the members of other United Nations councils and organs and, on the recommendation of the Security Council, appoint the Secretary-General;
- III. Consider and make recommendations on the general principles of cooperation for maintaining international peace and security, including disarmament;
- IV. Discuss any question relating to international peace and security and, except where a dispute or situation is currently being discussed by the Security Council, make recommendations on it;
- V. Discuss, with the same exception, and make recommendations on any questions within the scope of the Charter or affecting the powers and functions of any organ of the United Nations;
- VI. Initiate studies and make recommendations to promote international political cooperation, the development and codification of international law, the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and international collaboration in the

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Ibid

⁶ "President of the General Assembly." *UN Elections*. <http://www.unelections.org/?q=node/27>

⁷ "Charter of the United Nations." *UN.org* <http://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/chapter-xv/index.html>

- economic, social, humanitarian, cultural, educational and health fields;
- VII. Make recommendations for the peaceful settlement of any situation that might impair friendly relations among nations;
 - VIII. Consider reports from the Security Council and other United Nations organs.⁸

Conclusion

The General Assembly continues to be the main international forum for discussing world affairs, and the setting it provides is invaluable to the international community. All Member States have an equal voice in the General Assembly, creating an ideal environment for the communication of Member State interests.

⁸ “General Assembly of the United Nations.” UN.org <http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/background.shtml>

I. Personal Data Protection and Online Privacy

"Information is the oxygen of the modern age. It seeps through the walls topped by barbed wire, it wafts across the electrified borders."

-Former U.S. President Ronald Reagan

Introduction

Article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks."⁹ This article brings to light and firmly establishes the right of privacy and secure personal information to all.

Over 3.3 billion people use the internet which results in over 169 billion emails and over 3.5 billion Google searches being performed daily.¹⁰ With these statistics one can easily conclude that the World Wide Web is the main contributor to the transfer of international information as well as information considered to be more private and personal. One can also safely assume that such an influential and powerful tool can and has ignited world wide debate centered on the protection of privacy in both domestic and international spheres. For this reason, the internet-related resolution was adopted in January of 2014 as *Resolution 68/167*.¹¹ This resolution calls upon further measures to be taken in order to combat the current dilemma of Internet privacy. Sadly, no specific recommendations for how exactly the problem is to be resolved are suggested.

Due to the daily internet activity that occurs worldwide, personal data is collected and stored by a number of corporate, governmental and social organizations. Although personal data collection is primarily geared towards creating a convenient user experience, it also creates potential for abuse and corruption.¹² Potential breaches of internet privacy can take on many forms. Areas of susceptibility can include, but are not limited to: "storage of personal data on networked computers," "the collection and marketing of personal data by Web sites and direct marketers," and "the introduction of new snooping software and technology."¹³

While certain software companies have provided solutions aimed at battling breaches in internet privacy, such solutions are often "too complicated to use," and they rarely guarantee complete security on the internet.¹⁴

Role of the International System

⁹ United Nations, General Assembly. (1948). *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. Retrieved 16 July 2014

¹⁰ <http://www.internetlivestats.com>

¹¹ United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-eighth session. (2013). *The right to privacy in the digital age (A/RES/68/167) [Resolution]*. Adopted on the report of the Third Committee (A/ 68/456/Add.2)

¹² Paul M. Schwartz. 1999. Internet Privacy and the State, 32 Conn. L. Rev. 815 815

¹³ Ibid 818

¹⁴ Gorodyansky, David. 2014. "Privacy and Security in the Digital Age." *Wired.com*

Moving forward with a future plan of action requires consideration of past or current efforts used to fight issues of internet privacy. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) have been the leaders in the development of solutions and legislation regarding internet privacy. One of these NGO's on the front lines has been *Privacy International*. Their efforts focus on research designed to identify weak points in the digital framework where personal information could be vulnerable. They have made claims of frequently running into government created walls which slows down or halts their research.

As a result of these barriers, *Privacy International* has also invested in fighting legislation that supports online surveillance and monitoring.¹⁵ Additionally, the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF), serves as “the leading nonprofit organization defending civil liberties in the digital world.” EFF uses its technical skills to recognize and then correct a party, body or individual whenever there appears to be signs of abuse or suppression of freedom of speech or expression in any technological setting, including the Internet.¹⁶ In the European Union, where some of the most heated debates about Internet Privacy take place, the European Digital Rights Association (EDRi) secures that new technologies and systems approved by the EU are able to preserve people's privacy by also ensuring that intellectual property rights are preserved and not lost online.¹⁷

Together with the efforts of NGO's, Civil Society has considered the issue of Internet Privacy in the past few years. In September 2013, technical experts and members of Civil Society released a formal statement expressing concerns over the high level of government involvement regarding Internet surveillance.¹⁸

This formal expression has been referred to as the “Thirteen Principles,” and has been pushed for adoption at the Human Rights Convention (HRC).

Addressing the Problem

Any solution that can be taken into consideration should be focused around three topics: clearly defining the issue, creating new opportunities for coordination among Member States, and adapting to changes in technology and development.

While clearly defining the issue, it is important to note that both the UN and Civil Society have detailed data protection and mass surveillance as the two most relevant privacy issues of our time.¹⁹ The issue of data protection is periodically tied to the efforts to preserve Internet “anonymity,” or the ability to avoid identification on the web, but is more often tied to efforts to fight those who attempt to steal and misuse consumer information that is voluntarily given. The European Union has been able to implement laws against this type of data misuse by requiring web companies to clearly lay out what data it requests from its customers and how they intend to

¹⁵ Privacy International. (2014). Data Protection [Website]. Retrieved 18 July 2014.

¹⁶ Electronic Frontier Foundation. “Issues.” Accessed August 31, 2018.

¹⁷ European Digital Rights. (2013). *An Introduction to Data Protection*. Retrieved 19 July 2014

¹⁸ <https://necessaryandproportionate.org/principles>

¹⁹ United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-eighth session. (2013). *The right to privacy in the digital age (A/RES/68/167) [Resolution]*. Adopted on the report of the Third Committee (A/ 68/456/Add.2)

use that data.²⁰

In contrast, the issue of mass surveillance is centered much more on the political community. A frequent topic of debate amongst a majority of its Member States is how mass surveillance can be an effective and safe tool rather than a destructive weapon. According to a 2011 report by the UN Human Rights Council's Special Rapporteur, "the right to privacy can be subject to restrictions or limitations under certain exceptional circumstances. This may include State surveillance measures for the purposes of administration of criminal justice, prevention of crime or combatting terrorism."²¹ The use, or as some say, abuse, of government access has become increasingly relevant, with government requests for Google customer data nearly doubling between 2009 and 2012.²² Having said this, the limits of these restrictions are often ambiguous, adding to one of the large issues of this generation, determining the balance between security and privacy in regards to government surveillance on the internet.

After clearly defining the issue, it is essential to find areas in which Member States can effectively coordinate efforts. As part of a recent push to address concerns about government surveillance on the internet, the UN Human Rights Council recently appointed an expert on the issue of internet privacy.²³ According to the UNHCR, this appointment is to contribute to "helping develop international norms that more effectively address the interaction between privacy, freedom of expression, and other human rights in the digital context."²⁴ This shows just one example of how Member States can coordinate together, and opportunities for coordination are necessary in moving forward to find a more sustainable solution.

Finally, it is vital that proposed solutions consider the ever-changing nature of internet issues. As technological development and internet use will continue to be on the rise Member States have an obligation to be proactive in solution finding and coordination efforts. Any potential solutions will have to be adaptable to the dynamic world of digital technology. Additionally, just as in most aspects of government dealings, transparency is an important factor in considering how to attack the issue. It's important to move forward with caution when considering the use of third-party services, as this involvement has been the cause of private corporations being the dominant powers in this issue.

Questions to Consider

1. How can the General Assembly effectively investigate the use of consumer data by digital corporations without limiting the success of large private corporations?
2. How can Member State governments effectively monitor suspicious internet activity without infringing on their citizen's right to privacy?
3. What solutions encourage long-term adaptation to internet technology?

²⁰ European Digital Rights. (2013). *An Introduction to Data Protection*. Retrieved 19 July 2014.

²¹ UN Human Rights Council. 2013. Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Frank La Rue (A/HRC/23/40).

²² Ibid

²³ Human Rights Watch. 2015. "UN: Major Step on Internet Privacy"

²⁴ Ibid

Annotated Bibliography

Electronic Frontier Foundation. “Issues.” (Accessed August 29, 2018).

<https://www.eff.org/issues>

The Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) is an organisation that attempts to protect digital innovation by fighting any attempts at restricting internet freedom while simultaneously educating the public on digital issues and advocating a higher level of transparency.

European Digital Rights. (2013). *An Introduction to Data Protection*. Retrieved 19 July 2014 from: http://www.edri.org/files/paper06_datap.pdf

This site belongs to the EU body that deals with “protecting digital freedom.” While the organization specifically lobbies the EU in any issue involving digital freedom, it also advises EU member states on their domestic legislation. The EU is on the forefront of affronting internet privacy issues, and many private corporations encounter legal roadblocks in the EU.

Gorodyansky, David. 2014. “Privacy and Security in the Digital Age.” *Wired.com*

<http://www.wired.com/insights/2015/01/privacy-and-security-in-the-internet-age/>

This article come from “Wired,” a prominent technology periodical, and it describes the internet privacy issue from the perspective of private technology companies, and how potential action by the UN or similarly powerful governmental organizations would affect the way that we use the internet today.

Human Rights Watch. 2015. “UN: Major Step on Internet Privacy” <https://www.hrw.org/news/2015/03/26/un-major-step-internet-privacy>

This article provides analysis in regards to the position of the UN on digital privacy. The authors of the article are from Human Rights Watch, an advocacy group that specializes on lobbying the UN for human rights related action.

Paul M. Schwartz. 1999. Internet Privacy and the State, 32 Conn. L. Rev. 815 http://scholarship.law.berkeley.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1765&context=facpubs&seiredir=1&referer=https%3A%2F%2Fscholar.google.com%2Fscholar%3Fhl%3Den%26q%3Dinternet%2Bprivacy%26btnG%3D%26as_sdt%3D1%252C23%26as_sdt%3D#search=%22internet%20privacy%22

This scholarly article argues that government provides a crucial role in regulating and monitoring internet data, and it helps to outline the purpose of the government in this aspect. While it acknowledges the dangers of government overreach, it can provide delegates with a clear outline on several steps that government bodies can take in advancing the issue.

Privacy International. (2014). *Data Protection* [Website]. Retrieved 18 July 2014 from: <https://www.privacyinternational.org/resources/privacy-101/data-protection>

Privacy International is an advocacy group whose stated mission is to “see a world where we

are in control of information about us.” They write reports and propose legislation aimed at protecting internet freedom.

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-eighth session. (2013). *The right to privacy in the digital age (A/RES/68/167) [Resolution]*. Adopted on the report of the Third Committee (A/68/456/Add.2). Retrieved 17 July 2014 from: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/68/167

This resolution by the UN General Assembly discusses how the right to privacy applies to digital technology. It provides a unique insight into how the United Nations has begun to deal with the issue at hand, and lays a foundation for future resolutions.

United Nations, General Assembly. (1948). *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. Retrieved 16 July 2014 from: <http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/>

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a widely-accepted declaration which outlines the fundamental rights of mankind. Because the right to privacy is the basis for the issue, it is important to read this section and determine how internet freedom can fall under the right to privacy.

UN Human Rights Council. 2013. Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Frank La Rue (A/HRC/23/40). http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/17session/A.HRC.17.27_en.pdf

This document is an UNHCR report by the “special rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression.” The purpose of this report is to outline the issue of state digital surveillance, and to make recommendations to the General Assembly regarding the matter.

II. Addressing the Need to Pursue Worldwide Nuclear Nonproliferation

“Let us remember that you are here not simply to avoid a nuclear nightmare, but to build a safer world for all.”

-Ban Ki Moon, 2010 NPT Review Conference

Introduction

One of the most widespread and pertinent issues facing our generation, as well as one of the greatest debates of all time concerns the creation, spread, and testing of nuclear weapons. Nuclear nonproliferation, or the efforts to stop the spread of nuclear weapons, also referred to as weapons of mass destruction (WMDs), has been a central focus for the United Nations General Assembly First Committee since the early years of the United Nations.²⁵ The first nuclear weapon, code name Trinity, was produced and detonated under the direction of the Manhattan Project on July 16th 1945 in New Mexico.²⁶ This made the United States the first country in the world to successfully detonate an atomic bomb. Since that time, there have been more than 2,000 nuclear tests conducted throughout the world.²⁷ There are two main types of nuclear weapons: atomic bombs and hydrogen bombs. Atomic bombs are powered by fission which splits the atoms, while hydrogen bombs are powered by fusion which joins the atoms together. Both types of bombs, when detonated, as well as when tested can cause copious amounts of destruction and disaster, leaving a wake of immediate destruction as well as damage that leaves long term suffering. During World War II, the United States was responsible for the first and only use of nuclear weapons directly targeted at people. Two atomic bombs were dropped onto the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan, where an estimated 105,000 people were killed.²⁸ This confirmed the horrifying reality of absolute destruction caused by the human hand, the power of the atomic bomb could instantaneously remove whole entire cities from existence. This marked the beginning of debate and discussion surrounding the ethics and morals in using such destructive weapons.

International Framework and Issues

During the Cold War and the events that made up the nuclear arms race between Russia and the United States, many nations including the United States and Russia recognized the vital need for restraints and regulations on nuclear capabilities. This necessity resulted in the approval of a resolution originally drafted by Irish delegates in 1961, which calls upon Member States to negotiate control and relinquishment of nuclear weapons.²⁹ This resolution became the framework and inspiration for the NPT, The Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which entered into force in the year 1970. To this day, the NPT is still the most important

²⁵Merriam-Webster. “Nonproliferation”. <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/nonproliferation>. (Accessed August 2018).

²⁶ U.S. Department of Energy. “The Manhattan Project: An Interactive History”. <https://www.osti.gov/opennet/manhattan-project-history/Events/1945/trinity.htm>. (Accessed August 2018).

²⁷ Arms Control Association. “The Nuclear Testing Tally”. <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/nucleartesttally>. (Accessed August 2018).

²⁸ Yale Law School. “The Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki”. http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/mp10.asp. (Accessed June 2018).

²⁹ United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. <http://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/npt/>. (accessed September 2018)

document regarding nuclear disarmament and has been extended indefinitely, 190 Member States have signed this treaty.³⁰ The NPT has the same goals today as it did almost half a century ago, “the NPT aims to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to foster the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and to further the goal of disarmament.”³¹ This binding, multilateral treaty centers on the idea that those countries with nuclear weapons already in hand will peacefully disarm and those without access to such weapons will not create or receive them from other countries this in turn will lead to peace in the future.³² To ensure compliance and sustainability with this treaty, Member States gather and review its impact every five years, the last conference occurred in May of 2015 in New York City.³³ Another extremely important effort and essential aspect of the international framework in regards to nuclear nonproliferation is the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) as well as its accompanying Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO). This treaty has been signed by 183 member states and ratified by 164 member states. There are 8 member states who are required to ratify the treaty in order for it to “enter into force,” the United States being one of those essential member states.³⁴ This treaty works to ban all nuclear explosions, meaning that no country could ever test a nuclear weapon. One of the biggest long-term impacts of nuclear testing comes from the damage done by resulting radiation.³⁵ That is exactly what the CTBT and CTBTO fight on behalf of, those who have been the victims of this nuclear testing and to prevent future suffering. Fortunately, they have experienced much success with this feat, because only 3 member states have “violated the norm,” since 1996.³⁶

Because those eight member states have not yet ratified the treaty, it is not yet enforced, but the current structure consists of a preparatory commission which includes a “verification regime” to ensure that there are no undetectable tests and an international data center at headquarters in Vienna also known as the World Institute for Nuclear Security (WINS).³⁷ The CTBTO, working through the UN, has founded the International Day Against Nuclear Testing, a day meant to remind and reinforce the vital policy this treaty brings into play, the day is the 29th of August.³⁸ There are also several non-partisan, international organizations whose soul purpose is geared towards the stop of nuclear testing, one of those being ATOM (Abolish Testing, Our Mission),

³⁰ The U.S. Department of State. “Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty”. <http://www.state.gov/t/isn/npt/>. (Accessed August 2018).

³¹International Atomic Energy Agency. “Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons”. <https://www.iaea.org/publications/documents/treaties/npt>. (Accessed September 2018).

³² The U.S. Department of State. “Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty”. <http://www.state.gov/t/isn/npt/>. (Accessed September 2018).

³³ The United Nations. “2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons”. <http://www.un.org/>

³⁴Nuclear Threat Initiative. “Inventory of International Nonproliferation Organization and Regimes Center for Nonproliferation Studies.” <https://www.nti.org/learn/treaties-and-regimes/comprehensive-nuclear-test-ban-treaty-ctbt/>. (Accessed August 2018).

³⁵ Ibid

³⁶ Ibid

³⁷ *United Nations Meetings Coverage*. “Delegates Dismayed that Landmark Treaty Has Not Yet Entered into Force, as General Assembly Observes International Day Against Nuclear Tests. www.un.org. (Accessed August 2018).

³⁸ Ibid

they too work closely with the CTBTO to raise awareness of the CTBT.³⁹ Through these mechanisms and efforts, these organizations work to remain actively involved in the monitoring process and strive to demonstrate to non-signatories the importance of supporting and signing this treaty.

Particularly Relevant Actors

There are many key players in the nuclear nonproliferation arena who work together towards the goal of a more peaceful world. These include but are not limited to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and countries known or believed to have nuclear weapons.⁴⁰ UNODA was established in 1988 for the purpose of promoting nonproliferation and all efforts for disarmament. The UNODA works closely with the General Assembly and other bodies to encourage frequent dialogue and action against nuclear weapons³⁹. The IAEA has been at the forefront of the discussion on nuclear nonproliferation since its creation in 1957, by promoting safe use of nuclear power.⁴¹ Essential players in the fight against nuclear weapons are the five Nuclear Weapon States, which are The United States, Russia, China, France and the United Kingdom, who are also the five Member States who sit on the Security Council for the United Nations. These five countries are vital because their participation is required in any effort to stop the use of nuclear weapons.⁴² The countries known to have had nuclear weapons are Russia, The United States, The United Kingdom, France, China, India, Pakistan, The Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and Israel. Iran is also believed to have had limited access to nuclear weapons as well.⁴³ Unfortunately, in today's international arena, many see a country's power and influence based on the number of nuclear weapons it holds. The members of the Security Council continue to maintain both large stockpiles of weapons and leveraging power, while countries such as India and Pakistan have built nuclear weapons in attempts to gain international respect and influence.

Case Study: Iran Nuclear Deal

A deal was signed with Iran in July of 2015, completing months of negotiations on the issue of Iran's nuclear capabilities. Over the last decade, Iran has worked steadily on projects regarding parts for nuclear weapons while maintaining that all nuclear programs were peaceful. In 2015, the United States, France, China, the Russian Federation, Germany and the United Kingdom, known as the P5+1, finally agreed with Iran on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), more commonly known as the Iran Deal.⁴⁴

³⁹ *The ATOM Project*. "ATOM Project Honourary Ambassador Addresses UN General Assembly Special Session." <https://www.theatomproject.org/2018/09/atom-project-honourary-ambassador-addresses-un-general-assembly-special-session/>. (Accessed August 2018).

⁴⁰ United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. "About Us". <https://www.un.org/disarmament/about/>. (Accessed September 2018).

⁴¹ *International Atomic Energy Agency*. "About Us". <https://www.iaea.org/about>. (Accessed August 2018)

⁴² Cable News Network. "Nuclear Weapons: Who Has What". <http://edition.cnn.com/interactive/2013/03/world/nuclear-weapon-states/>. (Accessed August 2018).

⁴³ "Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action". https://eeas.europa.eu/statements-eeas/docs/iran_agreement/iran_joint-comprehensive-plan-of-action_en.pdf. (Accessed September 2018).

⁴⁴ Eyder Peralta. "6 Things You Should Know about the Iran Nuclear Deal". <http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2015/07/14/422920192/6-things-you-should-know-about-the-iran-nuclear-deal>. (Accessed September 2018).

In order to understand the deal, it is important to know the individual pieces of the agreement. First, the deal decreases Iran's nuclear facilities and alters their design to make the process of creating nuclear weapons difficult or sometimes even impossible. Second, the deal allows Iran to be able to continue enriching the uranium which means Iran will be able to use nuclear power as a reliable source of alternate energy.⁴⁵ As a result of the deal Iran will also reduce their stores of uranium significantly. The United States believes that this deal will significantly expand Iran's "breakout time", or the time it would take them to build a nuclear weapon.⁴⁶ The IAEA has agreed upon strict inspections to ensure that Iran maintains the regulations set up by this deal. In turn for their cooperation Iran will receive a removal of economic sanctions that have been crippling its economy.⁴⁷ This deal occurred in the summer of 2015, and according to most, Iran continues to uphold their promises.⁴⁸ Unfortunately just this past summer the United States has removed itself from the deal. However, this does not remove the agreement completely; European allies have intentions to continue to support the deal.⁴⁹

However, many continue to argue that Iran will break the agreement and secretly create its own nuclear weapons. This would be extremely problematic especially considering the current volatile climate in Iran's geographic area of the Middle East. Others argue that lifting the economic sanctions is an important step in moving forward. The Iran Deal is only one of many established and yet to be established solutions to pursue the need for nuclear nonproliferation.

Conclusion

Nuclear nonproliferation is an extremely pressing issue that has concern for the safety of all mankind. The resulting power and damage of nuclear weapons requires that they be properly managed and hopefully one day completely eradicated from arsenals worldwide. The topic continues to be urgent as many countries struggle for influence amidst conflict throughout the world. It is absolutely vital that dialogue continues to occur, particularly within the Security Council as it works to foster international security. It is up to the Member States to determine the role nuclear weapons will play in maintaining international peace and security.

Questions to Consider

1. What will it take to put the CTBTO into effect?
2. How can individual Member States, regardless of nuclear holdings, play a part in the effort for nonproliferation?
3. What are the next steps eliminating the nuclear threat to international peace?

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ British Broadcasting Channel. "Iran Nuclear Deal: Key Details". <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-33521655>. (Accessed August 2018).

⁴⁷ Browne, Ryan. German Intelligence: Iran May Have Tried to Violate Nuclear Deal". <http://edition.cnn.com/2016/07/08/politics/germany-iran-violate-nuclear-deal/>. (Accessed August 2018).

⁴⁸ Sherhan, Yaseen, "The Iran Deal Will Limp Along Without America-For Now," The Atlantic, May 8, 2018, <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2018/05/us-leaves-iran-deal/559646/>. (Accessed August 2018)

⁴⁹ "Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action". https://eeas.europa.eu/statements-eeas/docs/iran_agreement/iran_joint-comprehensive-plan-of-action_en.pdf. (Accessed August 2018).

Annotated Bibliography

Arms Control Association. “The Nuclear Testing Tally”. <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/nucleartesttally>. (Accessed August 2016). *This page provides information including fact sheets and briefs on nuclear testing. It was updated earlier this year, and gives statistics about nuclear tests which have been conducted. It includes a chart which illustrates the tests performed by each country.*

British Broadcasting Channel. “Iran Nuclear Deal: Key Details”. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-33521655>. (Accessed September 2018).

This BBC article provides an in-depth, scientific explanation of what the Iran deal agrees upon, and how it will work. It explains the science behind nuclear weapons, and how this poses potential difficulties in maintaining the agreement in the future. It also provides a map of Iran’s nuclear facilities, photos of production, and quotations from various experts.

Browne, Ryan. German Intelligence: Iran May Have Tried to Violate Nuclear Deal”. <http://edition.cnn.com/2016/07/08/politics/germany-iran-violate-nuclear-deal/>. (Accessed September 2018).

This article explains the recent update to the Iran deal which occurred when German intelligence claimed that Iran was breaking the terms of the JCPOA. The article explains reactions by other countries to this news.

Cable News Network. “Nuclear Weapons: Who Has What”. <http://edition.cnn.com/interactive/2013/03/world/nuclear-weapon-states/>. (Accessed September 2018).

This article provides an interactive world map that gives information on which countries have nuclear weapons. It shows country-by-country details including number of tests, number of nuclear weapons, and a history of their involvement in nuclear weapon-making.

International Atomic Energy Agency. “About Us”. <https://www.iaea.org/about>. (Accessed September 2018).

This is the information page for the IAEA. It provides information on employment, the Secretariat, Director General, history, conferences, and more. Every topic is linked to another more page that gives details on that item.

International Atomic Energy Agency. “Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons”. <https://www.iaea.org/publications/documents/treaties/npt>. (Accessed September 2018).

This is the website for one of the most important groups concerning nuclear non-proliferation. The page discusses the NPT, its contents and where it could lead. The website gives information on the organization, its work and scientific resources. It also provides access to a news centre and publications on relevant topics.

“Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action”. https://eeas.europa.eu/statements-eeas/docs/iran_agreement/iran_joint-comprehensive-plan-of-action_en.pdf. (Accessed September 2018).

This is the full text of the JCPOA, also known as the Iran Deal. It outlines in extreme de tail the agreement between the P5+1 and Iran. This agreement lifts economic sanctions from Iran in exchange for Iran curbing their nuclear program and instituting limitations.

Merriam-Webster. “Nonproliferation”. <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/nonproliferation>. (Accessed July 2016).

This page provides the dictionary definition for the word “nonproliferation”. It is de scribed in both a broader and specific context. It also provides an example of how to use the word, the first-known use of the word, pronunciation, and popularity.

Nuclear Threat Initiative. “Inventory of International Nonproliferation Organization and Regimes Center for Nonproliferation Studies.” <https://www.nti.org/learn/treaties-and-regimes/comprehensive-nuclear-test-ban-treaty-ctbt/> . (Accessed August 2018).

This graph as well as the accompanying article covers lists the Member States who have signed the CTBT, those who have ratified the treaty, as well as those who have done neither. The article discusses the details of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty and why it is so important that all Member States ratify it.

Peralta, Eyder. “6 Things You Should Know about the Iran Nuclear Deal”. <http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2015/07/14/422920192/6-things-you-should-know-about-the-iran-nuclear-deal>. (Accessed September 2018).

This NPR article provides detailed and analytic information on the JCPOA and its effects. It discusses consequences, and notes things that could happen in the future. It pro vides links to the text of the agreement, discussion and interviews about the deal, and a fact sheet.

Preparatory Commission for the CTBTO. “The Treaty”. <https://www.ctbto.org/the-treaty/>. (Accessed August 2018).

This page provides historical background, legal resources, country profiles, and more concerning the CTBTO. In terms of historical background, it gives a detailed timeline of events regarding the creation of the treaty.

Preparatory Commission for the CTBTO. “Who We Are”. <https://www.ctbto.org/specials/who-we-are/>. (Accessed September 2018).

This page explains the organization which supports the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. It also explains some of the history behind the treaty and why the organization believes that it is so important. It also gives an introduction to the CTBT and discusses why it has yet to become law. The page also includes information about the Preparatory Commission’s headquarters, verification mechanisms, and inspection activities.

Sherhan, Yaseen, “The Iran Deal Will Limp Along Without America-For Now,” The Atlantic, May 8, 2018, <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2018/05/us-leaves-iran-deal/559646/> . (Accessed August 2018)

This news article from The Atlantic addresses the issues that arose when the United States decided to removal itself from the Iran Deal. It takes the reader through why the deal was made to begin with and why the White House thought it was doing more bad than good.

The ATOM Project. “ATOM Project Honourary Ambassador Addresses UN General Assembly Special Session. <https://www.theatomproject.org/2018/09/atom-project-honourary-ambassador-addresses-un-general-assembly-special-session/> . (Accessed August 2018)

This article also covers the events that took place in New York City on the International Day Against Nuclear Tests. The ATOM project is a non-partisan group that has created an international virtual petition to end Nuclear Testing, it focuses its efforts on the people who suffered from the testing happening in different areas of Kazakhstan, who are today, still suffering from the radiation.

The U.S. Department of State. “Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty”. <http://www.state.gov/t/isn/npt/>. (Accessed June 2016). *This is the U.S. State Department’s page on the NPT. It provides a background and overview, and has a video of Secretary Kerry’s recent remarks on the subject. It also includes the full text of the treaty, information on the review process, and links to more information about related topics.*

The United Nations. “2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons”. <http://www.un.org/en/conf/npt/2015/>. (Accessed September 2018).

This page discusses last year’s NPT review conference, where Member States came together to discuss updates to the Treaty. It provides information on the stances of various countries, background on the conference, statements from representatives, the speaking list, and more. It also includes links to a text of the Treaty, information on the UN and disarmament, disarmament issues, and other resources.

United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. “Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty”. <http://disarmament.un.org/treaties/t/ctbt/text>. (Accessed September 2018).

This is the text of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, which aims at full outlawing of all nuclear weapon use and testing. While working towards this goal, they support disarmament. This page also includes a section on the status of the Treaty, which provides information on Member States and the date of their signature.

United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. <http://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/npt/>. (Accessed September 2018)

This article goes through the details of the process of creating the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). The aim of the treaty is the same today as it was fifty

years ago, and still stands as the most important and well regarded binding multilateral treaty amongst Member States.

United Nations Meetings Coverage. “Delegates Dismayed that Landmark Treaty Has Not Yet Entered into Force, as General Assembly Observes International Day Against Nuclear Tests. www.un.org. (Accessed August 2018).

This story covers the events that took place on International Day Against Nuclear Test at the UN headquarters in New York City. It was a day of remembrance and a very strong reminder to those Member States, particularly those who have yet to ratify the CTBT.

United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. “About Us”. <https://www.un.org/disarmament/about/>. (Accessed September 2018).

This page provides background information on the organization of UNODA. It explains their purpose and how they accomplish it, and details the goals they work to promote. This page provides links to a spotlight, update, information on WMDs, conventional arms, regional disarmament, and special sessions on disarmament. It also includes a site index.

U.S. Department of Energy. “The Manhattan Project: An Interactive History”. <https://www.osti.gov/opennet/manhattan-project-history/Events/1945/trinity.htm>. (Accessed August 2016).

This website provides extremely detailed information on the Manhattan Project and the creation of the first atomic bomb. It provides information on events, people, places, processes, science, and other resources, and gives a timeline with details about the events. It is an educational resource for people to learn more about this time in history.

Yale Law School. “The Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki”. http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/mp10.asp. (Accessed September 2018).

This website provides information and statistics on the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It gives historical background and discusses the consequences of this action. It includes tables that illustrates casualties in different ways, and gives a detailed background on the history and impacts of the bombings and how to understand the science behind them.