

RENMUN VIII

The Restoration of Serenity



March 4th & 5th 2023

Chair Report

Chair Introduction

Dear delegates,

Welcome to the Disarmament and International Security Council (DISEC) for RENMUN VIII! My name is Katrina and alongside Aarush, we are beyond pleased to serve as your Chairs for this conference!

Created as the first of the Main Committees in the General Assembly (GA), DISEC was formed to respond to the needs for an international forum to discuss peace and security issues among members of the international community. DISEC aims to establish principles ranging from governing disarmament along with the regulation of armaments. Additionally, this committee provides recommendations with reward to such principles to the Members or to the Security Council. Aside from its role in the General Assembly (GA), DISEC is also an institution of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA).

As we will be working closely together throughout the course of this conference, Aarush and I would like to take this opportunity and tell you all a bit more about ourselves. To begin, I am currently a Year 11 student from Island School, furthermore, I was first introduced to Model UN in Year 9, and I have been involved in Model UN ever since. I can still vividly recall my first Model UN conference, along with the nerves that accompanied that experience. However, those nerves were eventually dispelled as I participated in more conferences and engaged in lively discussions with other delegates. Aarush and I encourage you all to do the same, hence actively participate and cooperate to address the topics set before us to ensure having successful committee sessions and meaningful discussions.

We truly look forward to meeting you all in March and hope that this conference either engenders your enthusiasm in Model UN or be the start of a newfound passion for debate and global politics. Good luck and all the best!

Sincerely,

Katrina Hon (katrina.hon@online.island.edu.hk)

Aarush Garg (200035@learning.gsis.edu.hk)

Preventing Non-State Actors from Acquiring Weapons of Mass Destruction

This topic encompasses weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) and aims to find solutions to the underlying problem of non-state actors creating and using these for terrorism purposes and breaching international law. This includes the distribution of intellectual property regarding the production of WMDs, the sharing of information between scientists, creation of centralized databases regarding information of WMDs and many other various solutions.

WMDs can be used to cause devastation to countries, and even long-lasting impacts to future generations over a vast area at a massive scale such as the drop of the atomic bomb over Hiroshima and Nagasaki causing mutations and death due to radioactivity exposure, but also defects in future generations. Hence, to ensure that such events do not repeat, it is important to keep such powerful items out of the hands of non-state actors and regulate the production of WMDs.

Key Terms

Term	Definition
Intellectual Property	Intangible property that is the result of creativity, such as patents and copyrights
Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs)	Nuclear, chemical, biological weapons, as well as other weapons that can cause devastation and fatalities at a massive scale.
Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)	Treaty with the aims of preventing further production of nuclear weapons and promotes peaceful production of nuclear energy, with the eventual goal of nuclear disarmament. 190 parties are signatories, and the 5 exceptions are India, Israel, Pakistan, North Korea and South Sudan
Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)	The Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) is a legally binding treaty that outlaws biological arms. After being discussed and negotiated in the United Nations' disarmament forum starting in 1969, the BWC opened for signature on April 10, 1972, and entered into force on March 26, 1975. It currently has 183 states-parties, including Palestine, and four signatories (Egypt, Haiti,

	<p>Somalia, Syria, and Tanzania). Ten states have neither signed nor ratified the BWC (Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Israel, Kiribati, Micronesia, Namibia, South Sudan and Tuvalu).</p>
<p>Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)</p>	<p>The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), officially the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction, is an arms control treaty administered by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), an intergovernmental organization based in The Hague, The Netherlands. The treaty entered into force on 29 April 1997, and prohibits the large-scale use, development, production, stockpiling and transfer of chemical weapons and their precursors, except for very limited purposes (research, medical, pharmaceutical or protective). The main obligation of member states under the convention is to effect this prohibition, as well as the destruction of all current chemical weapons. All destruction activities must take place under OPCW verification.</p> <p>As of August 2022, 193 states have become parties to the CWC and accept its obligations. Israel has signed but not ratified the agreement, while three other UN member states (Egypt, North Korea and South Sudan) have neither signed nor acceded to the treaty.</p>
<p>Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)</p>	<p>Treaty with the aim of worldwide nuclear disarmament and declaration of total number of nuclear weapons on a territory. Testing, development and usage of nuclear weapons is banned under this treaty.</p>
<p>Non-State Actor</p>	<p>A person or organization who is not part of the officially recognised government of a country</p>
<p>Terrorism</p>	<p>The act of violence and intimidation toward civilians for political purposes.</p>
<p>Centralized Database</p>	<p>A database consisting of information in one location governed by a central authority</p>
<p>International</p>	<p>The International humanitarian law is a set of rules which</p>

Humanitarian Law	seek, for humanitarian reasons, to limit the effects of armed conflict. It protects persons who are not or are no longer participating in the hostilities and restricts the means and methods of warfare.
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Background Information

Since World War II, the production of Weapons of Mass Destruction proliferated, as all countries aimed to gain arms in order to ensure Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) in case a country were to use its weapons. The Cold War was a major turning point as the USSR and the USA were taking part in an arms race, however, after the apparent demise of the USSR, the USA decided to focus more towards nuclear disarmament as the major form of WMDs, rather than nuclear deterrence, as they saw the sheer damage of the nuclear weapons after the World War II bombing of Nagasaki and Hiroshima.

The demise of the USSR also resulted in the spread of nuclear weapons to neighboring countries and the distribution amongst state and non-state actors, resulting in chaos around the property of such weapons. This led to world-wide panic of nuclear war, as this power in the wrong hands could lead to widespread calamity and destruction. As such, the issue of preventing non-state actors from acquiring WMDs arose.

Though weapons of mass destruction are tough to construct, there have been cases where terrorist organizations and other non-state actors have acquired means to produce WMDs such as biological weapons or chemical weapons capable of causing political turmoil and widespread devastation within a nation. Scientists who worked on the research on projects regarding the creation of WMDs moved away from the government and produced these weapons after founding their own militia groups to further their own political agendas.

The Biological Weapons Convention and Chemical Weapons Convention, however, have significantly reduced the total amount of biological and chemical weapons still in circulation, and hence this has made it far more challenging for non-state actors to exploit in order to further their own agenda. However, nuclear weapons are still highly in circulation, and in the wrong hands this can cause significant damage, enough to destroy countries and even parts of a continent.

Over the years, one suggested solution has been to keep complete transparency regarding research between different member nations using a centralized database and regular sharings and collaborative efforts between scientists to reduce the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and keep countries trusting one

another. However, member nations such as Russia, the DPRK, Iran, Iraq and Libya have refused to give up their data regarding WMDs, given the implications against national security breaches.

As of yet, no nuclear weapons are confirmed to be in the hands of non-state actors, but with the privatization of nuclear weapon production, it is only a matter of time before companies begin to sell nuclear weapons to the highest bidder, who may have nefarious purposes or ulterior motives. Hence, it is very important to prevent nuclear research to be kept outside state officials and to ensure that proper background checks are done on scientists and other officials with access to the data and research regarding WMDs.

As can be seen by damage from attacks, it is important to not only prevent non-state actors from acquiring WMDs, but to also prevent unstable political parties and states from acquiring such technology, given their likelihood of carrying out a catastrophic attack, which would lead in the deaths of many innocent civilians and mass destruction of land.

Potential Clashes

Nuclear Disarmament

Nuclear disarmament is a contentious issue under this topic, as many nations who do not possess nuclear weapons, wish for total nuclear disarmament, to ensure a nuclear-free world and safety for all nations. However, the big 5 nations continue to keep nuclear weapons as a deterrent against one another and radical nations who continue to develop stronger military programs and proliferate terrorism and other harmful activity. Smaller nations argue that it is the scientists of these nations and the military generals who allow for the technology to be leaked in the hands of terrorist organizations and other harmful non-state actors, and hence believe that research into nuclear weapons should also be prohibited and curbed, to ensure security of all nations. Larger nations make the argument that non-state actors will eventually develop these weapons by themselves, and by destroying their arsenal of weapons, innocent civilians are now at risk of significant damage, and states are defenseless and cannot use the WMDs as a deterrent.

Centralized Database and Increased Collaboration

By keeping a centralized database, the information and research regarding development of WMDs and data regarding numbers of WMDs present in each nation, countries will be disincentivized from using the weapons and further prevent them from creating weapons. However, some nations express reservations regarding the sharing of data, given national security concerns, and the misuse of this data by

states. However, given the transparency of data, it is more likely for non-state actors to be able to gain potentially threatening data.

Privatization and Public Knowledge versus State Owned Programs

Privatization increases the risks of companies using research and money to build WMDs, however not for purposes of deterrence or security, but rather for nefarious purposes of destruction. Some large weapon multinational corporations may cause international conflicts to proliferate the production of weapons of mass destruction and increase lobbying on states. This can be seen in the United States of America, as gun companies lobby and increase the sales of their firearms given the loose restriction of firearm sales. However, state owned programs give too much power to the state, and hence it can be argued that such power should not be wielded with just one person, rather this information should be distributed to allow everyone with resources to create WMDs but keep them as deterrents for all others.

Key Stakeholders

Stakeholder	Involvement with the Issue
United States of America	The largest owner of nuclear weapons in the world and part of the Cold War along with the USSR. Their values lie in moving towards nuclear disarmament, yet they are still to sign the TPNW and continue to boast a huge arsenal of nuclear weapons as a deterrent to radical nations. They stand strongly against biological weapons and have ratified the BWC and CWC and stand firmly against non-state actors acquiring weapons of mass destruction
Russia	One of the G5 powers in the world with access to nuclear weapons and other WMDs such as biological weapons, Russia has one of the strongest military forces on Earth. Like the USA, they boast a large arsenal of nuclear weapons. However, after the collapse of the USSR in 1990 after the end of the Cold War, many of their weapons were lost. This stockpile of weapons slipped into the hands of some of the most dangerous non-state actors in the world, and countries with volatile militaries. Russia has supported the use of nuclear weapons in heavily armed conflict. In addition, Russia has not signed on

	<p>to the TPNW and continues to hold WMDs despite signing the BWC and CWC. As a country who is suspected to have funded deadly terrorist organizations such as the Taliban in the past, they are key stakeholders in the battle of reducing WMDs in the wrong hands, and as such other nations need to try and come to a peaceful solution with talks.</p>
<p>People's Republic of China</p>	<p>The People's Republic of China has been committed to reducing problems regarding WMDs and the security of innocent citizens as a global leader. They have made efforts to try and establish transparency in the technologies produced by nations and have been pushing towards a nuclear-weapons free world. They promote the use of research for biotechnology and nuclear energy under the NPT. They are one of the only nations to have signed the CWC, BWC, NPT, and CTBT. The policy has always been a "no first use", and they have pledged not to attack "nuclear-free zones" with weapons of mass destruction such as nuclear weapons. As such, they realize the potential damage of these weapons and technology in the wrong hands, and will fight strongly against WMDs being in the hands of non-state actors.</p>
<p>United Kingdom</p>	<p>Despite originally being one of the largest producers of chemical weapons in World War 1 and 2, the United Kingdom has curbed the production of such weapons since 1956, after which it signed the BWC and CWC. However, they continue to increase their number of nuclear weapons, as announced in March 2021. Whilst they are against nuclear weapons getting to non-state actors, they are strongly against disarmament, and continue to use such weapons as deterrents to full blown military invasions.</p>
<p>Syria</p>	<p>A country which has suffered under the consequences of WMDs, especially chemical and biological weapons in the past 10 years, due to the ongoing civil war, Syria is well aware of the damage. Yet, the Syrian state continues to produce WMDs and seeks to continue acquiring WMDs for harmful purposes. This has led to widespread violence and</p>

	<p>bloodshed within the region, and has led to the proliferation of terrorism. Non-state actors have gained access to such weapons of mass destruction, and this has caused the deaths of many innocent civilians and many others to flee and seek asylum in other nations. With weapons in the wrong hands, this can lead to significant damage within the region. Yet, the Syrian government refuses to cooperate and take part in negotiations, as they feel that giving up their arsenal will only prompt stronger nations such as the USA and the UK to invade their nation and control them.</p>
Libya	<p>As a country who has signed the TPNW, Libya is a nation who is strongly against nuclear weapons and other WMDs. Through their rule under Mouammar Gadaffi, Libya continued to produce WMDs until 2003, when they decided to voluntarily eliminate all materials. As a country who has recently suffered 2 civil wars, they are well aware of the dangers of non-state actors getting their hands on WMDs or technology which can help build them, and the catastrophic consequences this could have on the people. Hence, they are heavily invested in the complete nuclear disarmament of all nations and destruction of all WMDs, to ensure the world is in peace and safety. Their aim is to have a peaceful world with no WMDs of any sort, so that no one has the power to wield mass destruction upon others.</p>

Possible Solutions

1. Transparency in the sharing of research
2. Centralized database with total amount of WMDs
3. Nuclear disarmament
4. Public knowledge of research
5. Vetting of scientists and personnel part of research on WMD production
6. Education regarding the harms of WMDs

Past Actions

The Nuclear Proliferation Treaty

This treaty prevents the further creation of nuclear weapons, and keeps a more stringent supervision of nuclear weapon production within nations and hence preventing such WMDs from slipping into the hands of radical non-state actors.

The Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

This treaty prohibits the usage, testing and manufacturing of nuclear weapons and eventually leads to nuclear disarmament. This keeps non-state actors from being able to gain access to such weapons

The Biological Weapons Convention

The Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) was opened for signature and entered into force for the purpose of banning an entire category of weapons of mass destruction– preventing global economic loss, political assassinations, the creation of environmental catastrophes, and more.

The Chemical Weapons Convention

The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) was opened for signature and entered into force for the purpose of banning an entire category of weapons of mass destruction, introduced in light of the damage caused by chlorine gas and other such chemical weapons in World War 1 and World War 2.

The Geneva Protocol

The Geneva Protocol prohibits the use of chemical and biological weapons in war. Besides, civilians are to be protected from murder, torture, or brutality; the Geneva Conventions also remain as the cornerstone of the International Humanitarian Law– a body of rules that aims to protect those who are no longer fighting (including wounded and sick military personnel and prisoners of war).

Guiding Questions

1. What can be done to prevent damage from nations who have not signed the NPT, TPNW, BWC or CWC?
2. How can current programs and initiatives in DISEC be furthered to solve the issue at hand?
3. Should research into production of WMDs be continued?
4. Should countries completely destroy all WMD stockpiles?
5. What measures can be taken to ensure that chaos does not ensue, even if WMDs get into the hands of non-state actors?
6. How can we prevent radical non-state actors from arising, such that the problem of WMDs falling into their hands cannot exist in the first place?

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