**Country: Cuba**

**Committee: Disarmament and International Security Committee**

**Agenda Item: Preventing non-State actors from acquiring**

**weapons of mass destruction**

**Delegate: Alya Avgoren**

Cuba feels that in this day and age preventing the proliferation of WMDs of any kind, should not be a controversial topic to agree upon. We, as the delagetion of Cuba, are proud to have a definite stance on this. We believe that preventing non-state actors from acquiring weapons of mass destruction (WMD) is of utmost importance for global security. The delegation of Cuba believes that it is necessary for the international community to cooperate in developing and implementing effective measures to prevent non-state actors from acquiring WMD. Cuba is committed to preventing the proliferation of WMD and has demonstrated this through its participation in several international treaties.

We have ratified both the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC) and the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) in 1976. As well as The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) being ratified in 2018, signed by the minister of foreign affairs, Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla. In an address to the United Nations following the signing ceremony, he said: “We all share the common responsibility to preserve the existence of human beings in the face of a nuclear threat. An important contribution to the achievement of that goal was the historic adoption of the [TPNW].” It was among the original 50 states parties to the treaty when it entered into force on 22 January 2021. In 2022, Cuba hailed the TPNW's entry into force as “an undeniable milestone to advance towards nuclear disarmament” and described the treaty as complementary to The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Preventing non-state actors from acquiring weapons of mass destruction (WMD) is a critical global security concern, as such weapons pose a grave threat to international peace and security. Here are some measures that can be taken to prevent non-state actors from acquiring WMD:

Tighten export controls: Governments need to implement strict export controls on materials and technologies that could be used to develop WMD. This includes dual-use items such as chemicals, biological agents, and nuclear materials. States must ensure that these materials and technologies do not fall into the wrong hands by regulating their transfer, transshipment, and re-export.

Strengthen border controls: Governments must strengthen border controls to prevent the illegal trafficking of WMD-related materials and technologies. This includes the establishment of customs and border protection measures, as well as the development of advanced detection technologies.

Address the root causes of non-state actor proliferation: Non-state actor proliferation is often driven by a variety of factors and elements, including poverty and political instability.

Strengthen international legal frameworks: Governments around the world need to strengthen international legal frameworks that prohibit the acquisition and use of WMD. This includes the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), and the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC). These legal frameworks can serve as a deterrent to non-state actors, as well as provide a legal basis for punishing those who violate these treaties.

It is also recognized that the only truly effective and sustainable way to strengthen the Biological Weapons Convention and ensure its comprehensive and balanced implementation is through the adoption of a legally binding Protocol that prohibits them and includes a verification mechanism.

In conclusion, preventing non-state actors from acquiring WMD is a complex and multifaceted challenge that requires a coordinated international response. The measures outlined above are just some of the steps that can be taken to mitigate this threat and promote global security.