

Country: South Korea

Committee: DISEC (Disarmament and International Security Committee)

Agenda Item: Preventing Non-State Actors From Acquiring Weapons of Mass Destruction

There is no doubt that non-state actors, especially terrorist groups, are interested in acquiring weapons of mass destruction. With their possession of such powerful weapons, terrorist groups such as Al-Qaeda would not hesitate to use them. Luckily, terrorists and non-state actors are incapable of producing nuclear weapons from scratch without state support, according to the intelligence communities. However, the main issue is terrorists stealing or gaining control over WMD systems or gaining access to materials which enable them to create their own weapons.

South Korea is a signatory state of several treaties and conventions which prohibit the proliferation or the use of weapons of mass destruction. South Korea is a signatory of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, or NPT, which bans the country from seeking nuclear weapons. It also signed a joint declaration with North Korea in 1991 in which both Koreas (South Korea and North Korea) agreed not to “test, manufacture, produce, receive, possess, store, deploy or use nuclear weapons.”. South Korea is one of the funders of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) which supports progress in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and contributes to policymakers’ efforts to keep the world free of biological and chemical weapons. South Korea has been a Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) signatory since June of 1987. This convention prohibits the development, production, acquisition, transfer, stockpiling and use of biological and toxin weapons. South Korea has also been a Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) signatory since January of 1993. This is a convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction.

We firmly believe that weapons of mass destruction do not belong in the hands of non-state actors and that action should be taken in order to prevent this from happening by doing the following: firstly, refraining from providing any support to non-state actors who are attempting to manufacture, possess, transport or use weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. Such activities by non-state actors, particularly for terrorist purposes and any assistance or financing of such activities should be prohibited; heavy penalties should be imposed on any non-state actors who do so. Also, adopting even more domestic measures to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and related materials, including by accounting for and physically protecting such items. This could be achieved by establishing and maintaining effective border controls and law enforcement measures and reviewing and maintaining national export and trans-shipment controls (with appropriate criminal or civil penalties).

Sources:

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