Country: South Africa

Committee: DISEC

Topic: Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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What are Nuclear Weapons?

Nuclear weapons are the most dangerous weapons in the world. It can destroy an entire city by endangering the natural environment and lives of future generations with its long-term destructive effects that have the potential to kill millions.

South Africa's nuclear quest began in 1948 as a result of studies on nuclear explosives. South Africa had natural uranium deposits and the necessary technological infrastructure. South Africa bought its first reactor from the USA in 1957. Officially launched its nuclear weapons program in 1973. But international pressure kept them from testing these weapons. South Africa built the first nuclear explosive device in 1982 and built 6 bombs that could carry an explosive equivalent to TNT. In 1989, it officially ended the nuclear program and South Africa joined the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in 1991 as a non-nuclear weapons state.

How does nuclear energy contribute to the national economy?

Nuclear power plants are expensive to build but inexpensive to run. The monetary contribution of nuclear energy to the country's economy is many times higher than solar and wind energy. In addition, nuclear power maintains air quality by generating large amounts of carbon-free electricity. It generates more than 800 billion kilowatt hours of electricity each year and generates more than 55% of the country's emission-free electricity. South Africa had two nuclear reactors and these reactors supplied 23% of electricity.

South Africa had already taken measures for nuclear proliferation, signed a lot of deals for this. NPT (Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty), PTBT (Partial Test Ban treaty), CTBT (Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban treaty), TPNW (Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons). Although these agreements were signed many years ago, they are still valid.

A nuclear energy agency can be established to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons in other countries. This institution can make the necessary inspections and ensure that we use nuclear energy in a healthy way. This way we can prevent nuclear armament together.