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DISEC

Letter from Secretary-General

Honourable Delegates, Esteemed Chairs, Dear guests and friends.

It is with great delight that I, the Secretary-General of ANKAMUN'21, welcome you all to the 2nd edition of the Ankara TürK Telekom Social Sciences Model United Nations conference. We are very excited to meet you and to witness this week of enriching debates. We also hope you have the best conference of your life, learn and have as much fun as possible.

During our conference, you will be guided by your two wonderful chairs, Manaal Tariq and Manuel Fernandez Mollinedo, who will give their best to prepare for your negotiations. Your committee, Disarmament and International Security(DISEC) is of pivotal significance, as it manages subjects that influence individuals wherever throughout the planet. Accept the open door of these four days to consider how to improve a world for us all, and discover answers for life in congruity with nature.

Alper has accomplished significant work on this study guide, which is the ideal device for you to turn into a specialist on your points. Inside the accompanying pages, you will discover data about history, existing enactment on the matter, and the principle issues in question for the two topics. To benefit as much as possible from your experience and be an ideal delegate (and perhaps win awards!) we encourage you to set aside an effort to get ready. Resort to this study guide to get all the data you need on the topics. During the reenactments, address your nation's position, while simultaneously attempting to examine with different nations and to discover arrangements to at last accomplish the composition of a typical goal bringing progress.

If you have any question that comes to your mind during your preparation, or if you need any help, please ask us. We are here to help you and to make sure you have the most amazing experience during ANKAMUN. We are looking forward to meeting you.

Good luck with your preparation.

Best regards

Ceylin Sucu

Letter from Under-Secretary-General

Distinguished participants,

Firstly, I'd like to introduce myself generally. My name is Alper Saętaş and I will be serving as the responsible Under-Secretary-General for DISEC. I am from Antalya and studying in Antalya İstek Science High School as an 11th-grade student. I've been participating in Model United Nations conferences since the beginning of my high school life.

The United Nations is an international organization founded in 1945 after the Second World War by 51 countries committed to maintaining international peace and security, developing friendly relations among nations, and promoting social progress, better living standards, and human rights.

DISEC is the 1st committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations. DISEC deals with disarmament and international security matters around the globe.

I advise all participants to read and understand the study guide comprehensively before the conference. You can also do further researches on your country & committee if you feel like doing so. I'm looking forward to seeing you at ANKAMUN'21.

If you have any questions regarding anything about this conference you can contact me via sagtasalper@gmail.com

Sincerely,

Alper Saętaş

Under-Secretary-General

Introduction to the Committee

The Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC) is the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly (GA). The First Committee deals with disarmament, global challenges, and threats to peace that affect the international community and seeks out solutions to the challenges in the international security regime.

It considers all disarmament and international security matters within the scope of the United Nations Charter or relating to the powers and functions of any other organ of the United Nations; the general principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security, as well as principles governing disarmament and the regulation of armaments; promotion of cooperative arrangements and measures aimed at strengthening stability through lower levels of armaments.

The First Committee sessions are structured into three distinctive stages:

General Debate

Thematic Discussions



Agenda Item A: East Mediterranean Crisis

Introduction

The Eastern Mediterranean crisis is an intensification of military tensions between Turkey, Greece, and their allies in the East Mediterranean Sea. Tensions rose following Turkey's exploration operations in a disputed area in the Mediterranean.

The Eastern Mediterranean crisis reflects two overlapping developments. On the one hand, it is a manifestation of Turkey's increasingly assertive posturing in the international arena. At the same time, it shows the intensity of the geopolitical competition between Turkey and its adversaries, such as Egypt and the UAE. The EU Member States' different levels and forms of engagement with Turkey obstruct a consensus on how to coherently respond to these developments. With accession negotiations stalled and discussions focused on areas of conflict rather than cooperation, EU-Turkey relations are mired in stalemate, while the militarization of foreign policy is becoming increasingly prevalent in the EU's southern neighborhood.

Key Terms

a) Territorial waters

Territorial waters give the littoral state full control over air navigation in the airspace above, and partial control over shipping, although foreign ships (both civil and military) are normally guaranteed innocent passage through them. The standard width of territorial waters that countries are customarily entitled to have steadily increased in the 20th century: from initially 3 nautical miles (5.6 km) at the beginning of the century, to 6 nautical miles (11 km), and currently 12 nautical miles (22 km). The current value has been enshrined in treaty law by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982.

b) Continental Shelf

In the context of the East Mediterranean crisis, the term continental shelf refers to a littoral state's exclusive right to economic exploitation of resources on and under the sea-bed, for instance, oil drilling, in an area adjacent to its territorial waters and extending into the High Seas. The width of the continental shelf is commonly defined for purposes of international law as not exceeding 200 nautical miles.

c) "Blue Homeland"

"Mavi vatan," or "blue homeland," has become a common phrase in Turkish political life. It is most often used as a shorthand expression for Ankara's maritime claims in the eastern Mediterranean.



d) Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)

An exclusive economic zone (EEZ), as prescribed by the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, is an area of the sea in which a sovereign state has special rights regarding the exploration and use of marine resources, including energy production from water and wind. It stretches from the baseline out to 200 nautical miles (nmi) from the coast of the state in question. In colloquial usage, the term may include the continental shelf. The term does not include either the territorial sea or the continental shelf beyond the 200 nmi limit. The difference between the territorial sea and the exclusive economic zone is that the first confers full sovereignty over the waters, whereas the second is merely a "sovereign right" which refers to the coastal state's rights below the surface of the sea. The surface waters, as can be seen on the map, are international waters.

Claims

Turkey and Greece have a decades-long dispute over their maritime boundaries that have never been resolved. The Turkish coastline is dotted with Greek islands that Athens believes bestow Greece with territorial rights.

Ankara argues they violate its maritime claims. Ankara claims that islands should only have limited exclusive economic zones (EEZs). It points to previous international rulings that limited the influence of islands in determining maritime boundaries, such as in a 1982 dispute between Libya and Tunisia.



Ankara's position is complicated by its refusal to sign the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, which is normally called on to resolve such disagreements.

A related quarrel centers on the divided island of Cyprus. Ankara sees itself as a protector of the Turkish-speaking northern part of the island, which it invaded in 1974 after a Greek-backed coup.

But the Turkish Cypriot self-declared state is not recognized by the international community, which views the government on the Greek Cypriot side as the legitimate authority for the whole island. Cyprus was contentiously admitted to the EU in 2004.



Turkey believes that the government that sits in southern Cyprus should not have the right to auction blocks of its surrounding seabed to international energy companies until Turkish Cypriots can share the benefits. But peace talks have failed multiple times in the past 45 years.

Turkey also believes its southern coastline gives it economic rights in waters off Cyprus that Nicosia sees as part of its territory.

Gas Discovery

The discovery of the supergiant Zohr gas field off Egypt in 2015 kickstarted interest in the region from some of the world's largest energy companies. Italy's Eni, which discovered the Zohr field, started production in 2017, generating billions of dollars in revenues annually.

But it was not the first significant find. Israel struck reserves in 2009, followed by the larger Leviathan field in 2010. With the little existing infrastructure, these took time to develop but have since slashed Israel's reliance on highly polluting coal for electricity.



Cyprus first discovered gas in 2011. Two other significant finds by energy majors including Eni, Total, and ExxonMobil followed in 2018 and 2019.

Most of the discoveries so far have been in the south-eastern portion of the region, close to Egypt, Israel, and Cyprus's southern coast. The areas where Turkey is drilling for gas do not yet have proven reserves.

But work to assess and develop these prospects has largely been delayed this year because of the slump in energy prices during the coronavirus pandemic.

Alliances & Situation of Turkey

The development of gas resources in the eastern Mediterranean has forged some unlikely alliances. The East-Med Gas Forum, nicknamed "the Opec of Mediterranean gas" was formally established in Cairo this year.

It brings together Egypt, Israel, the Palestinian Authority, Jordan, Greece, Cyprus, and Italy, intending to establish the region as a major energy hub. France has asked to join, while the US has requested to become a permanent observer.

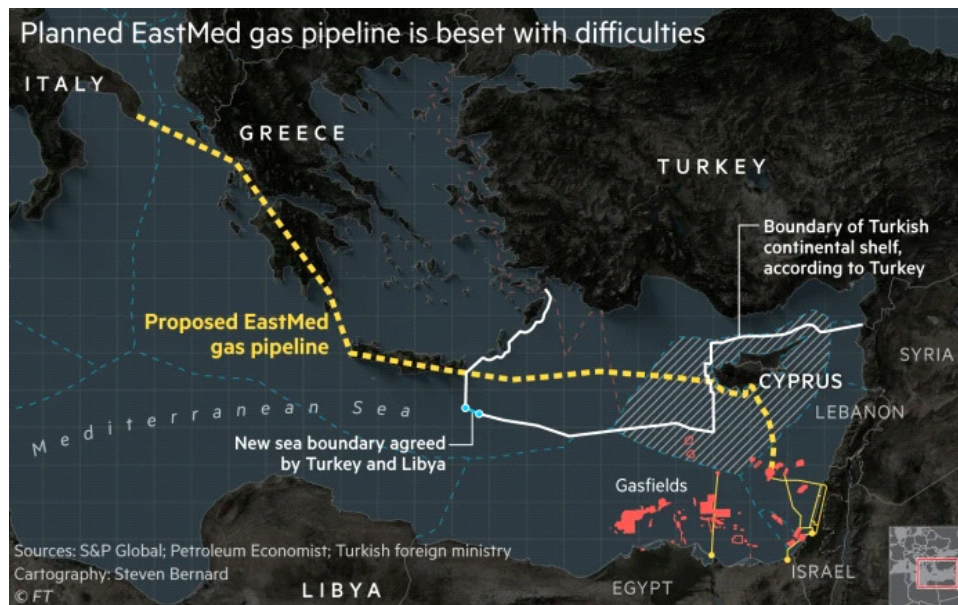
That has left Turkey isolated because of its tensions with many members, including Greece and Egypt, even as the forum has helped to forge common ground between Israel and a number of its neighbors.

Libya's Involvement

Tensions in the eastern Mediterranean are increasingly tangled up with the conflict in Libya, where a civil war has morphed into a proxy struggle between rival international powers.

Turkey backs the UN-endorsed Libyan government in Tripoli that has been fighting renegade general Khalifa Haftar, who has received support from nations including Russia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, and France.

In November, Turkey and Tripoli signed a pair of landmark deals. One laid the groundwork for Ankara to provide the beleaguered government with game-changing security and military support. Over the months that followed, it shifted the balance of the war in the Tripoli-based government's favor.



The second agreement demarcated a new sea boundary between Turkey and Libya, angering Greece and complicating plans for a future pipeline from Cyprus to Greece, via Crete, that could pipe gas to mainland Europe.

As Turkey's influence in Libya increased, countries such as the UAE and France have become increasingly vocal about the dispute in the eastern Mediterranean. Both nations dispatched forces to join recent military exercises held by Greece and Cyprus in a show of strength against Turkey.

Role of the International Community

Nato talks aimed at reducing the risk of a military clash between the two alliance members got off to a difficult start, as Athens refused to participate while Turkey still had naval ships in contested waters.

While the US has called for a diplomatic solution to the crisis, it has been largely absent from efforts to prevent a military confrontation between Greece and Turkey. That job has fallen to the EU.

The majority of member states favor dialogue and de-escalation with Turkey, which is an important partner economically, on migration, and the Middle East regional security.

In July and August, Germany launched a mediation attempt between Athens and Ankara that stalled when Greece signed a new maritime deal with Egypt, angering Turkey.

But Greece and Cyprus have been pushing hard for the EU to take a tougher stance towards Turkey, including further sanctions. France is increasingly swinging towards the Greece-Cyprus position because of its disputes with Turkey, particularly over Libya.

Other member states may also feel obliged to take a harder line if Turkey continues to press ahead with drilling — though there is little evidence so far of widespread support for sweeping economic sanctions.

This is all due to be discussed by EU foreign ministers and leaders later this month. Josep Borrell, EU foreign policy chief, has said that further countermeasures could include blocking Turkish companies involved in the energy controversy from using European ports, products, and finance.

Agenda Item B: The Usage of Nuclear Weapons

Introduction

Nuclear weapons are the most dangerous weapons on earth. One can destroy a whole city, potentially killing millions, and jeopardizing the natural environment and lives of future generations through its long-term catastrophic effects. The dangers from such weapons arise from their very existence. Although nuclear weapons have only been used twice in warfare—in the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945—about 13,400 reportedly remain in our world today and there have been over 2,000 nuclear tests conducted to date. Disarmament is the best protection against such dangers, but achieving this goal has been a tremendously difficult challenge.

Regional Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones (NWFZ) have been established to strengthen global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament norms and consolidate international efforts towards peace and security.

The United Nations has sought to eliminate such weapons ever since its establishment. The first resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1946 established a Commission to deal with problems related to the discovery of atomic energy among others. The Commission was to make proposals for the control of atomic energy to the extent necessary to ensure its use only for peaceful purposes. The resolution also decided that the Commission should make proposals for “the elimination from national armaments of atomic weapons and of all other major weapons adaptable to mass destruction.”

Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, commonly known as the Non-Proliferation Treaty or NPT, is an international treaty whose objective is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament.

Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones (NWFZ)

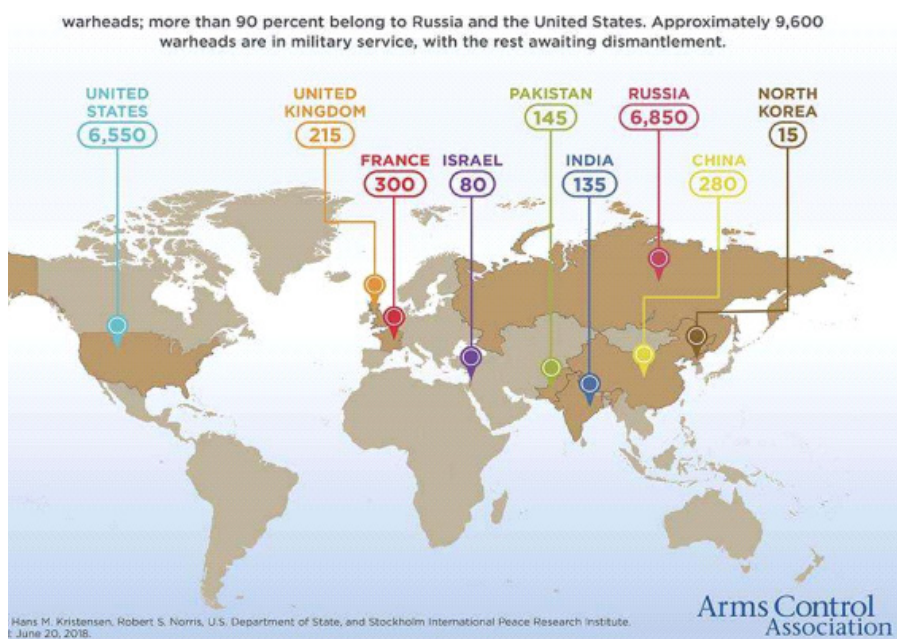


The establishment of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones (NWFZ) is a regional approach to strengthen global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament norms and consolidate international efforts towards peace and security. Article VII of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) states: “Nothing in this Treaty affects the right of any group of States to conclude regional treaties in order to assure the total absence of nuclear weapons in their respective territories“.

Nuclear Weapons Worldwide

Nine countries possess nuclear weapons: the United States, Russia, France, China, the United Kingdom, Pakistan, India, Israel, and North Korea.

Some countries first developed nuclear weapons in the context of the Cold War, as the United States and the Soviet Union jockeyed for influence. Others developed them more recently, in response to regional conflicts or other concerns.



In addition to these five countries, four other countries (North Korea, Israel, Pakistan, India) acquired nuclear weapons around the time of, or after the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) went into effect.

North Korea

As the Cold War ended, North Korea found itself in economic turmoil. Desperate for diplomatic leverage and eager for security assurances, its leaders accelerated a nuclear program. Thirty years later—after decades of tension with the United States and broken promises on both sides—the small East Asian country likely now has enough nuclear material for several dozen nuclear warheads, as well as nascent long-range missile capabilities. North Korea withdrew from the NPT in 2003 and conducted its first nuclear test in 2006.

Denuclearizing the Korean peninsula is an important long-term goal. Some combination of sanctions, Chinese pressure, and diplomacy may be needed—and it may take years.

Russia, USA

Collectively, the United States and Russia possess most of the world's nuclear weapons. Antagonism between the two countries goes a long way in explaining the slow pace of progress on nuclear weapons reductions.

Leaders of both nations view nuclear weapons as a central part of their security strategy. Both nations are developing new types of nuclear weapons. The US has indicated it is unlikely to extend the existing treaty that limits their arsenals, while Russia has made it clear that it will only make further nuclear reductions if US missile defenses are also constrained.

Left unchecked, these and other tensions could lead to an arms race and make nuclear conflict more likely, especially in times of crisis.

China

China also developed nuclear weapons during the Cold War and has since maintained a relatively modest arsenal of ~250 warheads and bombs. Fewer than a hundred of these weapons could reach the United States, though China, like Russia, may increase its capabilities in response to advances in US missile defense.

As China increases its military capacity in East Asia, and the US expands its military forces in the region, the risk of military conflict grows—and so does the risk of nuclear war.

India, Pakistan & Israel

Elsewhere, regional tensions and long-simmering conflicts are worsened by the destructive potential of nuclear weapons.

India and Pakistan both possess nuclear weapons and are embroiled in a decades-long conflict over borders. Many experts fear that a military skirmish could escalate into a deadly nuclear exchange, with global consequences.

Israel does not acknowledge having nuclear weapons, though it's estimated that the country maintains roughly a hundred weapons. Its arsenal makes other mid-eastern countries more interested in acquiring the nuclear energy technology that would allow them to build their own nuclear weapons.

The US Nuclear Umbrella

Many countries without nuclear weapons want to protect themselves against nuclear threats without developing nuclear weapons themselves. One way to do this is through a security guarantee, a pledge from a country to protect an ally using military means. A security guarantee extends the perceived security a nuclear arsenal provides to allied countries that do not possess nuclear weapons. Because of this provision, a security guarantee provided by a nuclear-armed country is also called a nuclear umbrella. The U.S. nuclear umbrella covers several countries.

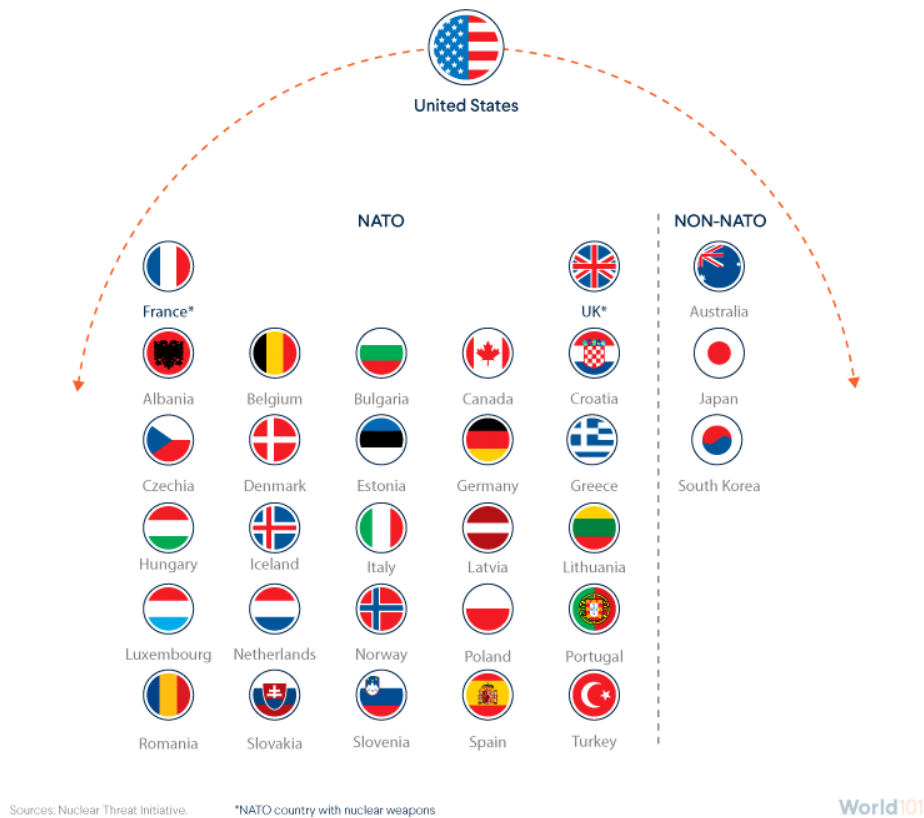
North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) members: NATO member countries that do not have nuclear weapons (two other NATO members, France and the United Kingdom, have nuclear weapons).

Japan: In 1951, at the end of the Allied occupation, the United States and Japan signed a security treaty that provisionally allowed the United States to maintain armed forces in and around Japan. In 1960, the two countries revised this agreement, which then allowed the United States to set up military bases in Japanese territories in exchange for U.S. protection and security, including nuclear weapons.

Australia: Since 1951, the United States and Australia have been part of a collective security alliance, but the related treaty is nonbinding and its language not as strong as that in the North Atlantic Treaty: whether the alliance requires the U.S. military to actually come to Australia's defense is unclear. Still, most experts consider Australia to be protected by the U.S. nuclear umbrella.

South Korea: Two months after fighting stopped in the Korean War in 1953, the United States and South Korea signed a mutual defense treaty creating a military alliance that continues to this day.

The U.S. Nuclear Umbrella



Interestingly, a nuclear umbrella is also meant to be a tool of nonproliferation: if countries without nuclear weapons are protected under a security guarantee from a nuclear-armed country, then those countries will be less inclined to start nuclear weapons programs of their own.

Security guarantees and nuclear umbrellas both illustrate an important point: even countries that have committed to nonproliferation understand that they live in a nuclear world. The different ways in which countries deal with that reality—acquiring nuclear weapons, declaring NWFZs, or seeking security guarantees—reflect the paradoxical goal most countries are trying to achieve: a peaceful future secured by weapons as necessary.

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