**United Nations Security Council (UNSC)**

**Topic: Nuclear Disarmament and International Security**

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**Letter From Secretary-General**

I feel more than honored to be welcoming you to the first annual session of Rahmi Kula Anatolian High School Model United Nations. Organized under the framework of Model United Nations it is eager to reach a wide range of attendants from high schools which are deeply interested in diplomacy, international relations, politics, tourism, economy and the United Nations itself while constituting a unique experience of debating and socializing at the same time.

MUN sessions, which were held online with the pandemic, continue their adventure with the effect of the new normal. Moreover, after a long time I share the excitement of the delegates with you.

During the three days of RKALMUN you will simulate all kinds of global issues, I am assured that the participants will observe fruitful debates, participate in reflective activities, and collaborate on marvelous resolutions. With its two General Assembly Committees and five further committees;  Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees(UNHCR), World Health Organization (WHO) United Nations Security Council (SC) and World Tourism Organization a UN Specialized Agency (UNWTO).

In the light of these aims, I would like to thank my dear deputies, Mr. Ada Surat and Mrs. İlayda Başaran. We worked hard with the organization team in order to make you #FeelTheMoment. On behalf of our strong and hardworking Secretariat and Executive Team, I welcome all of you to RKALMUN Conference.

Heartily,

**Secretary-General**

**Dilara Çetin**

**Letter from Under-Secretary-General**

Distinguished delegates,

I am Efe Şafak Şengül and I will be serving as the Under-Secretary-General responsible for the UNSC. It is a pleasure for me to take part in this conference. The following pages are intended to serve as a guide for you to acquire general information about the committee, and background

knowledge about the situation of nuclear armament on the globe. This guide only provides a basis for your research. I request you to find information about the country you represent and its international and nuclear policies. It will help you to become a more effective participant in debates, and it will assist you to create innovative solutions in the sessions. I want to thank my Co-Chair, Tunahan Tunçkanat, for his contributions and efforts throughout this period. I truly hope that your experience on our committee will be filled with inspiration and creativity.

Sincerely yours,

**Under-Secretary-General**

**Efe Şafak Şengül**

## 1. Introduction

The use of nuclear weapons in warfare is a highly controversial topic, and their possession is often criticized as being morally wrong. Although some believe that nuclear weapons are necessary for deterrence, the potential for widespread destruction and devastation that they pose is undeniable. In addition, the environmental and health effects of nuclear weapons testing and accidents can cause long-term damage to both people and the planet. Nuclear warheads are the most dangerous weapons on the planet. It is possible to demolish a whole city, perhaps killing millions and endangering future generations' natural environment and lives, as a result of its long-term devastating impacts. The fact that such weapons exist is where the danger starts to arise. Although nuclear bombs were only used in battle twice, in the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, around 13,400 are said to remain on our planet today. For

the reasons mentioned, many countries have signed international treaties promising to work towards disarmament and the elimination of nuclear weapons. Disarmament is the best defense against such threats, but accomplishing it has been a major effort.

Since its inception, the United Nations has worked to remove such weapons. The first resolution passed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1946 formed a Commission to deal with issues associated with the discovery of atomic energy, among other things. The Commission was supposed to make proposals for controlling atomic energy to the extent necessary to ensure that it was only used for peaceful purposes. The resolution also directed the Commission to suggest the elimination of atomic bombs and all other large weapons capable of mass devastation from national arsenals or armaments.

Since then, several global accords have been developed to prevent nuclear proliferation and testing while also encouraging nuclear disarmament progress. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the treaty prohibiting nuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere, outer space, and underwater, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons are among these.

Some bilateral and multinational treaties and agreements aim to decrease or eliminate particular kinds of nuclear weapons in order to avoid the spread of such weapons and their delivery systems. There have been several acts to prohibit nuclear weapons, ranging from treaties between the United States of America and the Russian Federation to various additional attempts. Among these measures are the Nuclear Suppliers Group, the Missile Technology Control

Regime, The Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation, and The Wassenaar Arrangement.

The United Nations Secretariat supports initiatives aiming at nuclear non-proliferation and ultimate abolition. Finally, the agenda proposes risk-reduction measures such as greater transparency in nuclear-weapon programs, further reductions in all types of nuclear weapons, commitments not to introduce new and destabilizing types of nuclear weapons, such as cruise missiles, mutual commitments to non-use of nuclear weapons, and a reduction in the role of nuclear weapons in security doctrines.

**About the United Nations Security Council**

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) was formed on 24 October 1945 and charged with maintaining international peace and security. Its powers include establishing peacekeeping operations, the establishment of international sanctions, and the authorization of military action. Resolutions of the Security Council are used to fulfill its authority. In addition, UNSC may adopt compulsory resolutions.

UNSC has fifteen members, five of which are permanent, and ten are elected. The non-council member states also may participate in discussions when that country's interests are affected. In addition, both members and non-members of the UN may be invited to participate in UNSC's discussions if they are parties to a dispute being considered by the Council.

The five permanent members of the UNSC are China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. These countries were the victorious powers of World War II and are the only countries with veto power. In practice, however, the veto power is often used to block resolutions that are critical of a permanent member state, rather than to prevent international conflict. The ten non-permanent members of the UNSC are elected by the General Assembly for two-year terms.

## 2. Background

### 2.1 First Nuclear Weapons

The first nuclear weapons were bombs delivered by aircraft. Later, warheads were developed for strategic ballistic missiles, which have become by far the most important nuclear weapons. Smaller tactical nuclear weapons have also been developed, including ones for artillery projectiles, land mines, anti-submarine depth charges, torpedoes, and shorter-range ballistic and cruise missiles. In the United States, the first nuclear weapons were constructed at the Los Alamos National Laboratory during World War II as part of the top-secret Manhattan Project.

On July 16, 1945, in the desert north of Alamogordo, New Mexico, the first nuclear test was code-named "Trinity", using a device nicknamed "the gadget." The test, a plutonium implosion-type device, released energy equivalent to 22 kilotons of TNT, far more powerful than any weapon ever used before. This trend only kept increasing, leading WWII to be the birthplace of a technology that will last centuries in coming.

## 2.2 Nuclear Weapons in WWII

To date, nuclear weapons have been used in war only twice. At the end of World War II, the United States dropped a nuclear bomb called Little Boy on Hiroshima, Japan, on August 6, 1945, and a second bomb called Fat Man on Nagasaki, Japan, on August 9, 1945. Little Boy detonated with an explosive force of approximately 15 kilotons. The shock wave was followed by a blast of heat at 6,000 °C, which ignited or incinerated anything flammable and turned the blast zone into a firestorm. Finally, the explosion produced lethal ionizing radiation and lingering radioactive fallout, in which debris blasted into the stratosphere by the initial explosion is held aloft by atmospheric winds and settles back to Earth over the next several days.

All told, the bombing of Hiroshima was estimated by a 1945 government report to have resulted in 66,000 deaths and another 69,000 injuries. Nagasaki's totals were also devastating, with 39,000 deaths and 25,000 injuries.

## 2.3 The Cold War

The bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki established nuclear weapons as the ultimate weapons of war, which kicked off an arms race between the United States and the Soviet Union. This race led to a period of mutual deterrence called the Cold War. It was a period of time when both countries had large nuclear stockpiles, but neither side was willing to use them because they knew that doing so would lead to mutually assured destruction. These two giants openly

competed without actually declaring war on one another, the stockpiling of nuclear weapons continued into the late 1980s. According to the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, the nuclear arms race reached its peak in 1986, by which time the Soviet Union possessed more than 40,000 nuclear warheads and the United States had 23,000. Much of this proliferation was based around the idea of "mutually assured destruction," in which both sides believed that the best way to avoid nuclear war was to have so many nukes that the opponent would not launch an attack because they feared they could not destroy enough of the target country's arsenal to avoid being devastated themselves by a deliberate attack. After the Soviet Union dissolved in 1991, thousands of nuclear weapons on both sides were dismantled.

**2.4 Legal Implications of Nuclear Weapons**

Because of the broad lethality and destructive potential of nuclear weapons, governments have negotiated arms control agreements such as the 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the 1972 Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT), 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), and the 1996 Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT).

**1968 Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)**

The non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is a landmark international treaty. This treaty aims to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament. The Treaty represents the only binding commitment in a

multilateral treaty to the goal of disarmament by the nuclear-weapon States. The Treaty was opened for signature in 1968 and entered into force in 1970. A total of 191 states have joined the Treaty, including the five nuclear-weapon States. More countries have ratified the NPT than any other arms limitation and disarmament agreement, a testament to the Treaty's significance.

To further the goal of non-proliferation and as a confidence-building measure between States parties, the Treaty establishes a safeguards system under the responsibility of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Safeguards are used to verify compliance with the Treaty through inspections conducted by the IAEA. The Treaty promotes cooperation in the field of peaceful nuclear technology and equal access to this technology for all States parties, while safeguards prevent the diversion of fissile material for weapons use.

The NPT’s purpose is to inhibit the spread of nuclear weapons. It designates five countries as nuclear-weapon states (NWS), the United States, Russia, China, France, and the United Kingdom, and classifies the rest as non-nuclear-weapon states (NNWS).

Under the treaty, NWS agreed not to help NNWS develop or obtain nuclear weapons, and NNWS agreed not to attempt to develop or obtain nuclear weapons on their own. Countries of both classifications further agree to help one another develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and to negotiate nuclear disarmament in good faith. Nearly every country in the world had accepted the NPT as of 2022, though North Korea famously withdrew from the treaty in 2003.

**1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START)**

START I (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) was a bilateral treaty between the United States and the Soviet Union to reduce and limit strategic offensive arms. The treaty was signed on 31 July 1991 and entered into force on 5 December 1994. The treaty barred its signatories from deploying more than 6,000 nuclear warheads and a total of 1,600 intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) and bombers. START negotiated the largest and most complex arms control treaty in history, and its final implementation in late 2001 resulted in the removal of about 80% of all strategic nuclear weapons then in existence. Proposed by US President Ronald Reagan, it was renamed START I after negotiations began on START II. The treaty expired on 5 December 2009.

**1996 Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)**

CTBT is a multilateral treaty that bans nuclear weapons test explosions and any other nuclear explosions in all environments for civilian and military purposes. It was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 September 1996 but has not entered into force, as eight specific nations have not ratified the treaty.

Given the political situation prevailing in the subsequent decades, little progress was made in nuclear disarmament until the end of the Cold War in 1991. Parties to the PTBT held an amendment conference that year to discuss a proposal to convert the Treaty into an instrument banning all nuclear-weapon tests. With strong support from the UN General Assembly,

negotiations for a comprehensive test-ban treaty began in 1993. The Treaty was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 September 1996.

As of 2016, eight Annex 2 states have not ratified the treaty: China, Egypt, Iran, Israel, and the United States have signed but not ratified the Treaty; India, North Korea, and Pakistan have not signed it.

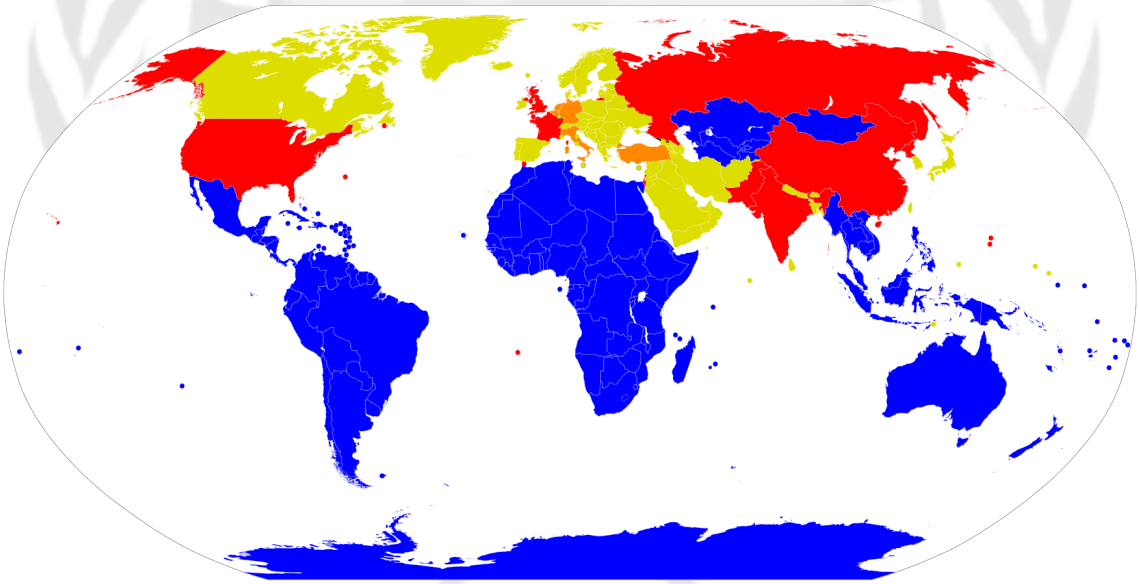
**2010 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START)**

New START is a nuclear arms reduction treaty between the United States and the Russian Federation, with the formal name of Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms. It was signed on 8 April 2010 in Prague, and, after ratification, entered into force on 5 February 2011. It is expected to last until 5 February 2026, having been extended in 2021. New START replaced the Treaty of Moscow (SORT), which was to expire in December 2012. It follows the START I treaty, which expired in December 2009; the proposed START II treaty, which never entered into force; and the START III treaty, for which negotiations were never concluded. The treaty calls for halving the number of strategic nuclear missile launchers. A new inspection and verification regime will be established, replacing the SORT mechanism. It does not limit the number of operationally inactive nuclear warheads that can be stockpiled, a number in the high thousands.

Ever since the Cold War's end, the United States and Russia have participated in a series of bilateral arms control agreements that have significantly decreased their strategic nuclear

arsenals from a peak of over 60,000. The most current provisions of the New START Treaty limit the number of deployed strategic nuclear weapons to 1,550 per state. This treaty is set to expire on February 5, 2021. It is the first time since the 1970s that neither the United States nor Russia's strategic giants have been constrained. The New START Treaty went into force on February 5, 2011, for a period of ten years. It can, however, be extended for up to five years if not replaced by another agreement. Its situation will be discussed at a conference in May 2022.

**2.5 Nuclear-Free Zones**



*Nuclear-free zones are shown as blue.*

A nuclear-free zone is an area in which nuclear weapons and nuclear power plants are banned. The specific ramifications of these depend on the locale in question. Nuclear-free zones usually neither address nor prohibit radiopharmaceuticals used in nuclear medicine, even though

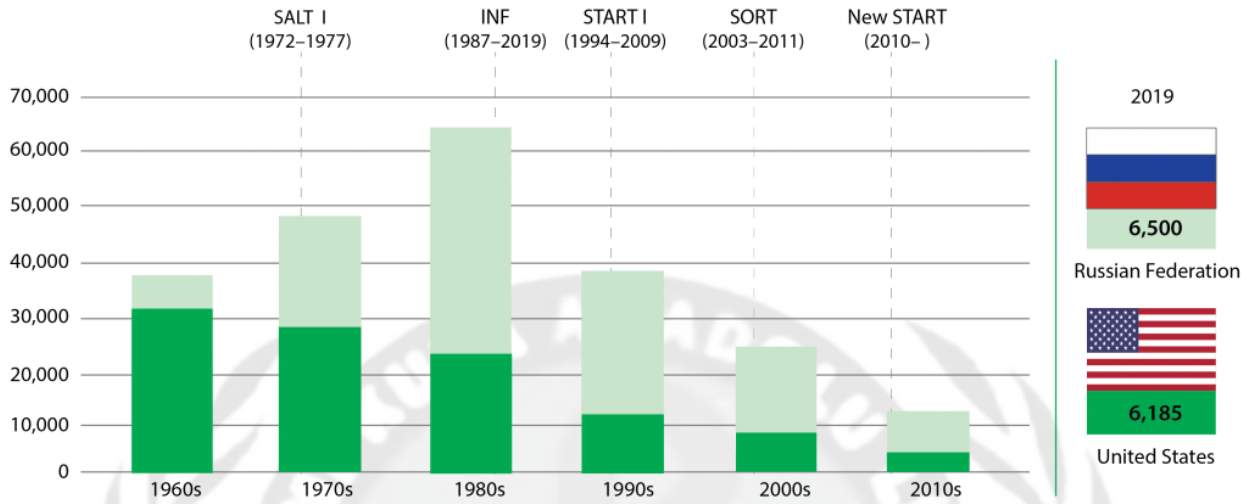
many of them are produced in nuclear reactors. They typically do not prohibit other nuclear technologies such as cyclotrons used in particle physics.

Several sub-national authorities worldwide have declared themselves "nuclear-free". However, the label is often symbolic, as the nuclear policy is usually determined and regulated at higher levels of government: nuclear weapons and components may traverse nuclear-free zones via military transport without the knowledge or consent of local authorities which had declared nuclear-free zones.

Palau became the first nuclear-free nation in 1980. New Zealand was the first Western-allied nation to legislate toward a national nuclear-free zone by effectively renouncing the nuclear deterrent. Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones (NWFZ) has been formed to improve global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament principles.

## 3. Current Situation

In 2019, the United States and Russia each maintained a comparable amount of nuclear warheads; collectively, these two countries control more than 90 percent of the world's nuclear weapons.




**United States of America**

It is the first country to develop nuclear weapons and the first to utilize them in war.

From the year 1939, the US started its nuclear program. Currently, the US has a stockpile of 3,750 active and inactive nuclear warheads with the addition of 2,000 retired heads, 5,550 in total. The US has signed NPT and CTBT.

**Russian Federation**

Currently, the Russian Federation has 6,257 warheads (the largest stockpile of nuclear warheads in the world; the second-largest stockpile is the US). Russia has signed NPT and signed and ratified CTBT.

**United Kingdom**

The United Kingdom has 225 warheads, and it is the third country to have developed and tested nuclear weapons. The United Kingdom is one of the five nuclear-weapon states under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. It has also signed and ratified the NPT and CTBT.

**France**

France has 300 operational (deployed) warheads, making them the third-largest in the world in terms of warheads. Although France did not sign the Partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, it has a signatory on NPT and is a ratifier on CTBT.

**China**

China has 350 nuclear heads, the fourth-largest nuclear arsenal amongst the five nuclear-weapon states acknowledged by the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. It has signatories on both NPT and CTBT.

**India**

Although India has not released any official statements about the size of its nuclear arsenal, recent estimates suggest that India has 160 warheads with no signatory on NPT as well as CTBT.

**Pakistan**

Pakistan began its nuclear efforts during the 1950s as an energy program. It was prompted in large part by the United States' "Atoms for Peace" program, which sought to spread nuclear energy technology across the globe. Pakistan currently has 165 warheads. It is a non-signatory country on NPT and CTBT.

**North Korea**

North Korea has an arsenal of 45 nuclear warheads. It is considered to have sufficient material to produce six nuclear weapons each year. North Korea withdrew from NPT in 2003 and does not have signatories both on NPT and CTBT. Since 2006, the government has conducted a series of six nuclear tests, and it still continues.

**Turkey**

Within its borders, in Incirlik Air Base, Turkey has 50 nuclear warheads which are from NATO's nuclear weapons sharing program. Despite the fact that Turkey is a non-nuclear-weapon state member of the NPT, some officials make public statements about the country's right to develop and acquire nuclear weapons.

**Italy**

Italy has ended its nuclear program upon its accession to the NPT. Currently, Italy does not produce or possess nuclear weapons but takes part in the NATO  Nuclear weapons sharing program and hosts 40 warheads.

**Germany**

Germany has agreed not to develop a nuclear weapon after the NPT and Two Plus Four Agreement. Currently, Germany hosts 20 warheads from the NATO Nuclear weapons sharing program.

**Netherlands**

Even though the Netherlands does not manufacture nuclear arms, it participates in NATO nuclear weapons sharing agreements and trains in deploying US nuclear weapons. The Netherlands has 20 warheads from the NATO Nuclear weapons sharing program.

**Belgium**

Belgium has 20 warheads on its territory as part of NATO's nuclear-sharing agreement.

**Related United Nations Organizations**

UNSC may work with the following organizations to ensure an efficient solution to Nuclear Disarmament;

- Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)
- United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)
- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

## 4. Questions to Consider

1. What actions can be taken by the UNSC to prevent a possible nuclear crisis?
2. What sanctions can be imposed on countries holding nuclear weapons?
3. How can UNSC contribute to building worldwide nuclear defense systems?
4. Which new establishments or associations can be founded?

5. What must legislation be put in place to solve the issue?
6. How can we ensure that states will remain nuclear-free?

The resolution should also cover previous acts of the Security Council and the United Nations on nuclear weapons issues.

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