



“Security Council”

Topic:

“Preventing terrorist's acquisition of massive destruction weapons”

Chairs:

María Fernanda Martínez Lugo

Karina Espinoza González

Committee background:

The Security Council is a division created in 1946 under the United Nations; its main purpose is to maintain international security and peace. There are 15 Council members. Five of these — China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States — are permanent members. The other 10 are elected by the General Assembly for two-year terms.

The committee aims to prevent and intervene on possible worldwide threats under noninvasive and peaceful plans of action. The Security Council is authorized to apply diplomatic and economic sanctions to any delegation that may be taking alarming actions as the nations are legally binding.

Background

International terrorism has long been on the Security Council's agenda, both before and after the attacks of 11 September 2001 the proliferation of biological, chemical, and nuclear technologies represents a potential risk since they can be dually used by non-governmental entities. The nexus of terrorists to mass destruction (MD) weapons through theft and illegal acquisition constitutes harm for civilians and the sovereignty of nations; the international community has not yet suffered a catastrophic terrorist attack involving nuclear, biological, chemical, or radiological weapons. However, the anthrax attacks suffered by the United States in 2001 and the sarin attacks suffered by Japan in 1995 provided an early warning regarding the risks posed by weapons of mass destruction in the hands of terrorists. "

A variety of factors have increased the threat of terrorists acquiring and using weapons of mass destruction. First, certain terrorist groups, such as Al Qaeda, have openly declared their intention to acquire and use weapons of mass destruction against innocent civilian populations. Second, the fall of the former Soviet Union and the existence of other failed or weakened states have increased the probability that terrorists or their facilitators will seek to steal or smuggle nuclear, biological, or chemical weapons stocks. Third, the Internet and the development of digital and mobile communications, and the onset of globalization and other technological advances have enabled terrorist groups to quickly acquire the expertise and coordinate the delivery of WMD through extended, transnational networks."(US Department of State, 2001)

Many powerful tools for containing proliferation and effecting disarmament already exist, including strong institutions (from the International Atomic Energy Agency to the Security Council) and norms (from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty of 1968 and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention of 1972, to the Chemical Weapons Convention of 1993).

There are at least 16 countries that have or have had Weapons of Mass Destruction.

- China: Stablished that the country has never had an active biological weapon, but the US stated that until 2019 China manifest indications of having

biological weapons even after joining the BWC. As well as Having chemical weapons until 2016, when the OPCW claimed sited no concerns.

- Deutschland: has a non-proliferation policy to ensure security protocols regarding biohazard and nuclear technologies.
- Iran: declared publicly the possession of chemical and biological weapons.
- Israel: There is no sufficient information to concede or deny the capabilities or programs of chemical or biological weapons.
- North Korea: According to the US continued intelligence, there are indicators of the country producing biological weapons. Furthermore, the country is thought to own a sizable chemical arsenal.
- Russia: Possessed the largest chemical arsenal in the world, and it is believed that there has been no destruction to their biological arsenal.
- Syria: HAs announced publicly the existence of production facilities and stockpiles of biological weapons, and there is not enough information to deny or accept the new production of chemical weapons.
- US: The Russian Federation accused the US to guarantee biological and chemical weapons research to improve defense against bio-terror attacks

Three nuclear powers remain outside the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT); nine countries have not yet joined the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC); thirty-one are outside the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC); and—within the nuclear regime—the current crises with North Korea and Iran are still unresolved.

- Weapons of mass destruction: these are typically understood to encompass chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear weapons.
- Nuclear Non-proliferation treaty (NTP): Treaty that restricts the possession of nuclear weapons and seals the eradication of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.
- Proliferation: Rapid increase of development and invention of nuclear weapons.
- Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC): International treaty that outlaws the production, stock, and use of chemical weapons.
- Biological, and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC): Convention about the development, invention, stock, and use of weapons.

Guiding Questions:

What international regulation guidelines do your country follow regarding nuclear and biochemical production, obtention, and transportation?

What are potential risks exist? (Both in your country and worldwide)

What national regulation guidelines does your country have?

How the use of these weapons have been affected your country?

Is your country part of any non-proliferation treaty?

Does your country have weapons of mass destruction? Has had them at any time?

Recommended material:

- International Peace Institute (IPI), (2009), Weapons of Mass Destruction, [PDF Archive], https://www.ipinst.org/wp-content/uploads/publications/wmd_epub_final.pdf
- Gabriel H. Oosthuizen and Elizabeth Wilmshurst, (2004), Terrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction: United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540, [PDF Archive], <https://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/default/files/public/Research/International%20Law/ILP0904bp.pdf>
- Dr. Gary Ackerman and Ms. Michelle Jacome, (2018) WMD Terrorism: The Once and Future Threat, [PDF Archive], <https://cco.ndu.edu/News/article/1507339/wmd-terrorism-the-once-and-future-threat/>

References:

- The Office of Electronic Information (Bureau of Public Affairs), (20/01/01), WMD Terrorism Risk, US Department of State, retrieved on 10/02/22 from: <https://2001-2009.state.gov/t/isn/wmd/c16583.htm>
- International Peace Institute (IPI), (2009), Weapons of Mass Destruction, [PDF Archive], retrieved on 10/02/22 from: https://www.ipinst.org/wp-content/uploads/publications/wmd_epub_final.pdf
- Chemical and Biological Weapons Status at a Glance | Arms Control Association. (2020, April). Arms Control Association. Recuperado 9 de febrero de 2022, de <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/cbwprolif>