



Forum:	1 st Committee
Issue:	Reviewing and renewing the INF Treaty
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Description of the issue:

The Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, abbreviated as INF, is a measure for assuring international peace regarding nuclear threats posed by the United States as well as the Soviet Union (later the Russian Federation). Signed in 1987 during the Cold War, this agreement obliged both states unlimitedly to abolish all ground-launched missiles that have a reach of 500 to 5,500 km. On top of that, the INF Treaty also comprised the destruction of launchers, associated support structures and further equipment for nuclear weaponry. As a result, 2,692 missiles were successfully abandoned in 1991, marking another turning point after decades of arms race between the US and the Soviet Union. This contributed in large parts to global security.

Yet, in the mid-2000s, the Russian Federation repeatedly proclaimed its concerns regarding the effectiveness of the INF Treaty as other countries commenced producing nuclear weapons and were not bound to any regulations. Russia, in addition to that, indicted the United States of infringing the agreement by stationing antiballistic missiles in Europe. Reversely, Russian head of state Vladimir Putin was repeatedly accused of violating the treaty by developing new missiles starting in 2014. Eventually, those political tensions resulted in the American President Donald Trump withdrawing from the treaty in February 2019. This was a major flaw of the INF Treaty as both parties were legally allowed to exit the agreement when they wanted. Therefore, the INF treaty has become void and now demands for diplomatic negotiations in order to renew it. On the other hand, discussing extant multilateral contracts aiming at the depletion and destruction of nuclear weaponry in this committee offers a reasonable alternative, which would, additionally, involve further nuclear weapon states besides these two.

Background information:

Firstly, the INF Treaty is clearly not the only agreement regarding nuclear weapons. On the one hand, countries located in the same region have established their own nuclear-weapon-free zone such as the *Bangkok Treaty* in Southeast Asia. Nowadays, these areas comprise of multitudinous countries, which are, in most cases, located in the southern hemisphere (see Figure 1).

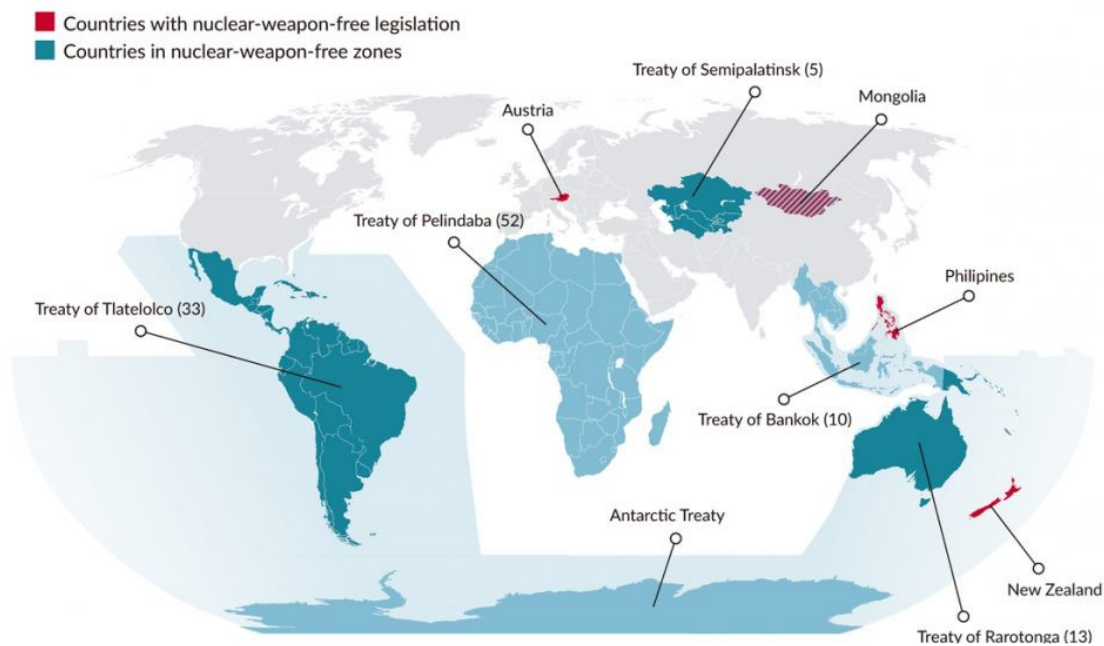


Figure 1: Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and their respective treaty

Additionally, several bilateral nuclear agreements like the *India-Pakistan Non-Attack Agreement* regulate the use of nuclear weapons. On the other hand, the United Nations have made great efforts to promote global dialogue on nuclear disarmament and, consequently, built a solid foundation for reducing the amount of nuclear arsenal. In the following the major treaties of the UN you ought to know of are briefly described:

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



This is the only binding multilateral treaty regarding nuclear disarmament. Its aim is, firstly, to prevent the accumulation of nuclear weapons and technology related to it. Secondly, the treaty supports the peaceful usage of nuclear energy and, in addition to that, international cooperation regarding the implementation of peaceful purposes. Finally yet importantly, nuclear disarmament is an obligation for all member states. To confirm the member states' compliance the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) conducts inspections and safeguards the treaty. Furthermore, every five years a conference is held to review the treaty.

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)

Having been opened for signature in 1996 by the UN, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty prohibits all member states to both undertake nuclear explosions and support this in any kind of form. Nevertheless, the agreement has yet to enter into force due to several countries not having signed it. Above all, six out of these nations, namely Israel, China, Pakistan, DPRK, the United States and India, possess nuclear weaponry and, thus, are not restrained in nuclear testing.

Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT)

This agreement was proposed to forbid the enrichment of uranium and plutonium used for nuclear warheads. Especially, nuclear weapon states, which have not signed the NPT, should ideally have been constrained from producing fissile material as most of them can act indiscriminately at the moment. On top of that, the treaty was arranged to provide further restrictions on the other nuclear weapon states that are bound to the NPT. Yet, negotiations on the treaty were stopped abruptly because Pakistan solely voted against the agreement.

Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)

After having passed resolution 71/258 in 2017, the General Assembly of the United Nations eventually decided on a multilateral binding treaty to forbid all nuclear weaponry: the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. According to the treaty, the member states are not allowed to “develop, test, produce, manufacture, otherwise acquire, possess or stockpile nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices”. Furthermore, deployment of such weapons and assistance in illegal nuclear activities is impermissible as well. On top of that,



the participating nations are responsible for helping people who suffer from the usage of nuclear weapons. Environmental issues have to be taken care of as well. This treaty, however, has not yet entered into force, as it requires fifty nations to ratify it, which has not been fulfilled.

Secondly, it is crucial to note that the INF Treaty only takes two parties into consideration: the States of the former Soviet Union and the United States. After all, the agreement resulted from their dispute during the 1970s.

Nowadays, apart from the Russian Federation, the states formerly belonging to the Soviet Union do not participate in any nuclear conflicts as they have either transferred their nuclear arsenal onto Russian ground or destroyed it. Yet, other nations joined the perilous clash instead: China, North Korea, India, Pakistan and Israel. Except for China, these countries have not ratified the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and only have few to none restrictions in their nuclear activities. Pakistan, for example, increases its uranium production for nuclear weaponry and is now capable of building approximately 10 to 15 warheads annually. In 2018, Pakistan's nuclear arsenal was even declared to be the fastest growing globally according to peace scientists.

In total, there are nine Nuclear Weapon States (NWS), which are shown in Figure 2. The nations marked in yellow are the ones having a smaller arsenal.



Figure 2: Nuclear Weapon States including their stockpile

Yet, there are further nations involved in nuclear conflicts apart from those shown in Figure 2: Shortly after the establishment of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, abbreviated as NATO, the member states decided on a “nuclear sharing agreement”. According to the compact, France, the UK and the US (participating nuclear weapon states) are permitted to deploy nuclear weapons on their members’ ground and, consequently, have a larger area of influence. In return, non-nuclear weapon states who then harbour nuclear weapons get a say in the usage of NATO’s nuclear weapons. This enables them to have indirect influence in nuclear affairs without producing or deploying any of their own. In total, 15 alliance members are involved in nuclear sharing with the US being the only country offering its nuclear arsenal to the agreement. In 1954, during the Cold War the United States began stationing tactical nuclear weapons in Europe as a means of deterrence for the Soviet Union. The US claimed this to be necessary as its rival was supposed to have superior military facilities. Up until now, roughly 150 nuclear weapons were deployed in several European countries: Germany, Belgium, Italy, Turkey and the Netherlands (see Figure 3).



Figure 3: European countries that host American nuclear weapons

Additionally, the NATO established the Nuclear Planning Group (NPG), which includes all NATO members except for France. In this forum, participating members discuss nuclear policy and operational issues. On the one hand, one could argue that this enables further countries to present their view on nuclear affairs and promote dialogue. In addition to that, the nuclear sharing agreement makes up a constituent part of NATO’s deterrence policy. Yet, many critics in Europe assert that this agreement clearly opposes nuclear disarmament and,



therefore, violates treaties such as the NPT. Furthermore, the idea of nuclear sharing is a controversial issue, which generates a heated debate between nuclear weapon states.

Further dangers related to nuclear energy are posed by the enrichment of uranium and plutonium, which are highly radioactive elements necessary for the construction of nuclear warheads. The isotope Pu-239 of Plutonium is used for nuclear weapons and occurs as a by-product of nuclear reactors. According to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), any composition containing at least 80% of said isotope is categorized as weapons-grade plutonium.

Uranium's isotope U-235 is the main fissile material used for nuclear warheads. In order to fuel nuclear power plants solely, low-enriched uranium is sufficient, which has a concentration of merely 3 - 4% of U-235. In contrast to that, the concentration needed for nuclear weapons lies at 90%. This is called high-enriched uranium and often abbreviated as HEU. For safety reasons a concentration of 20% is already labelled as HEU. By producing large amounts of these fissile materials, one is able to endanger the world's safety with possible nuclear weapons. Iran is one example: Even though it does not possess any nuclear warheads, it was said to have increased its production of high-enriched uranium as well as its concentration by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). That is why the chances of Iran converting to a nuclear weapon state are increasing.

All in all, the global tensions are gradually tightening if negotiations do not start soon. This is alarming as nuclear weapons are by far the uttermost dangerous threats of humankind. Having witnessed the atomic bombing of Hiroshima as well as Nagasaki in World War II, it becomes ostensible that civilization suffers from horrendous consequences: Not only do ten thousands of people die in a split-second after an attack, but also are the survivors left with severe diseases caused by atomic radiation.

Nuclear weapons have, moreover, a devastating impact on the environment. The bombed area is contaminated and uninhabitable for decades. Overall, this danger to society needs to be eradicated and solved as immediately as possible.

Historical background:

During the 1970s, the Soviet Union commenced replacing its outdated warheads in Europe with SS-20 ones, which were a lot more accurate and could possibly annihilate large cities at short notice. To counteract, the NATO opted for a "dual track" strategy: On the one hand, the US placed two intermediate-range ballistic missiles (IRBMs) in Europe, its range varying



between 1,000 and 5,500km. Meanwhile, the NATO also started negotiations with the Soviet Union. As the modernized nuclear weapons posed an unprecedented perilous danger, both parties were willing to discuss the disarmament of such weapons. Yet, it took them seven years of fraught negotiations until the “double-zero” option was decided on. Consequently, IRBMs as well as shorter-range ballistic missiles (SRBMs) were agreed on to be eliminated. The latter have a reach of 500 to 1,000 km. In total, the agreement prohibited all missiles that have a range of 500 to 5,500 km. Eventually, the INF Treaty was signed in December 1987 and ratified the following year.

Although the treaty’s sole participants were the United States and the Soviet Union, numerous states, such as Germany, Bulgaria or South Africa, followed their example and abandoned missiles complying with the INF Treaty as well.

Glossary:

Missile

A missile is a rocket used to deliver one or more warheads (in our case nuclear ones) to a certain location. Its range may vary from 120 to 16,000 km.

Fissile material

Constituting the core of nuclear warheads, fissile material describes specific elements whose nucleus is split to enact fission reactions. The isotopes U-235 and Pu-239 are examples of such. Gargantuan amounts of energy are released during nuclear fission, which can be seen on explosions of atomic bombs.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

The IAEA is a scientific NGO, which works closely with the United Nations. They safeguard the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) by conducting regular inspections in each country which has signed the agreement. Consequently, they make sure that nuclear technology is not abused for military uses.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

The NATO is mainly a military alliance consisting of European as well as North American states, which was established after World War II in 1949. The organization’s objective is to assure its participants safety as well as freedom by political and, if necessary, military means.



In addition to that, cooperation between member states is promoted to prevent conflicts.

UN Resolutions/Treaties:

1. Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations:

<https://undocs.org/A/RES/71/258>

2. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons:

<https://undocs.org/A/CONF.229/2017/8>

How to prepare as a delegate:

You are obliged to elaborate your nation's view on all three topics given in the 1st Committee. This Research Report helps you to get an overview of the issue but please be aware that it does not contain all information necessary for your country. In order to fully participate in the debate you need to do more research on the given topic and the circumstances in your country. It makes sense to focus on the nuclear status of your country and your possible allies regarding this issue. Here are some questions you might deem useful when preparing for the debate:

- Is your country in possession of nuclear weapons? If so, does it threaten to use them?
- Are nuclear weapons stationed in your country? And if so, for what purpose, by whom etc.?
- Has your country ratified any bi-/multilateral agreements (especially those listed under "Background information")? If not, why?
- Is your country engaging in any kind of nuclear disarmament talks? Does it intend to reduce its amount of nuclear arsenal (depending on whether your country is a nuclear weapon state or not)?
- Is your country enriching fissile material for nuclear warheads?

Important: You need to write two position papers and one draft resolution on the topics given and send them to us until 23rd August. If you do not meet this deadline, please understand that you will be excluded from lobbying.

Useful links:

- <https://2009-2017.state.gov/t/avc/trty/102360.htm#mou>



(here you find the treaty's text and some further historical information on the treaty)

- <https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/>
(if you need further information on treaties and/or agreements)
- <https://www.icrc.org/en/war-and-law/weapons/nuclear-weapons>
(some more information on the danger of nuclear weapons as well as detailed information on UN treaties)
- <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets>
(more information on some individual countries and agreements)
- <https://www.nti.org/>
(here you can search for your country to gather some information)
- <http://fissilematerials.org/>
(general information on fissile material and regarding individual countries)
- <https://www.oxfordresearchgroup.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=0eb97254-e224-4afe-af4e-220ad435e881>
(if you need more information on “nuclear sharing”)

Sources:

- <https://2009-2017.state.gov/t/avc/trty/102360.htm#mou>
- <https://www.britannica.com/event/Intermediate-Range-Nuclear-Forces-Treaty>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5iPH-br_eJQ
- <https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/tpnw/>
- <https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/>
- file:///C:/Users/pthao/AppData/Local/Temp/2017_treaty_on_the_prohibition_of_nuclear_weapons.pdf
- <https://medium.com/freeman-spogli-institute-for-international-studies/how-nuclear-war-would-affect-the-world-climate-and-human-health-8b40b4668074>
- <https://www.nti.org/learn/treaties-and-regimes/treaties/>
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- <https://www.nti.org/learn/countries/pakistan/nuclear/>
- <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-33521655>
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- <https://world-nuclear.org/information-library/nuclear-fuel-cycle/fuel-recycling/plutonium.aspx>



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- <https://www.ctbto.org/nuclear-testing/types-of-nuclear-weapons/>
- <http://fissilematerials.org/countries/pakistan.html>
- <https://world-nuclear.org/information-library/nuclear-fuel-cycle/uranium-resources/military-warheads-as-a-source-of-nuclear-fuel.aspx>
- <https://www.icrc.org/en/doc/assets/files/2013/4132-1-nuclear-weapons-human-health-2013.pdf>
- <https://cnduk.org/how-do-nuclear-weapons-work/>
- <https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/npt/>
- <https://www.iaea.org/>
- <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/fmct>
- <https://www.oxfordresearchgroup.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=0eb97254-e224-4afe-af4e-220ad435e881>
- https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/topics_50069.htm

Pictures:

- https://www.ploughshares.org/sites/default/files/1200x627_world-nuclear-weapon-stockpile_4-16-2018.png
- <https://www.worldfuturecouncil.org/nuclear-weapon-free-zones-regional-security-middle-east-north-east-asia-europe/>
- <https://defence-point.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/US-nukes-Europe-768x400.jpg>