

BTUMUN 2026

Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC)

Agenda Item: Preventing Nuclear Escalation and Strengthening Global Arms Control
Mechanisms



Table Of Contents

Letter From the Chair

Board.....4

Introduction of the

Committee.....5

Agenda Item: Preventing Nuclear Escalation and Strengthening Global Arms Control
Mechanisms

Introduction to the

Topic.....6

Definitions.....7

History of the

Topic.....9

Current

Situation.....10

Past

Actions.....12

Conclusion.....13

Guiding

Questions.....14

Bibliography.....

Letters from the Chairboard

Hi there. I'm Duru; most of you may or may not know me, but that doesn't matter because we are all here not only to make new friends and partners but also to solve a problem in today's world as one big group. In this committee, not only will you improve on being a delegate, but the critical thinking and problem-solving methods that you use in this committee will help you when solving other problems in your daily life. No need to stress; me and my partner chair Su Beliz , are here to help you all and make an enjoyable committee. I **highly recommend** that you all read our study guide thoroughly, because everything you will need for your delegation preparations will be in this study guide; the only thing you will need to do is, if needed, extra research and your own preparations of your **gsls motions, opening speech, and position papers**. Please do not hesitate to come next to me during school or even send me a message from any platform if you have any questions. I can't wait to see you all!

Duru Özdemir

Chair of the Disarmament and International Security Committee

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Welcome to BTUMUN'26! We welcome you warmly and wish you a very fun and exciting debate as both chairs, but first let me introduce myself. I'm Su Beliz Tercan, your Co-Chair of the DISEC committee. We are very

excited to have you participate in intellectual, challenging and ultimately rewarding debates under our guide.

Throughout our sessions, we encourage you to engage deeply with the debate, be respectful of differing opinions and remain open to compromise and collaboration.

Remember, successful

diplomacy often involves balancing national interests with the greater good, and we hope to see you employ creativity and empathy as you navigate through this challenging topic.

Remember that we, as your chairs, are here to support you in any way possible. If you have any questions regarding the procedure of DISEC, how to write a position paper or research, please do

not hesitate to reach out to us. We look forward to witnessing the insights, passion and solutions you will bring to our committee. Best of luck with your preparations- we're excited to see you

soon! Warm regards,

Su Beliz Tercan

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Introduction of the Committee (DISEC)

The Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC) is the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly. The United Nations Main Assembly First Committee functions as the primary platform through which all UN Member States unite to address global security issues and arms control matters and disarmament concerns and emerging threats to international peace. DISEC serves as an international forum where nations with diverse political and military and strategic priorities can engage in dialogues and negotiations to address global security and conflict and weapons issues. The main objective of DISEC exists to achieve worldwide peace through arms control treaties which inhibit weapons proliferation and through conventional weapons controls and through peace-building efforts between countries. The committee studies modern security challenges which include cyber warfare and autonomous weapons and space militarization and the security threats associated with emerging technologies. DISEC establishes

international security through its resolution process and its diplomatic discussions with multiple nations which create mechanisms for peace and conflict prevention.

The Disarmament and International Security (DISEC) Committee functions as the most recognizable and active General Assembly committee because its membership includes all 193 United Nations member states. DISEC debates often deal with real world geopolitical issues and require delegates to find a balance between their own country's needs and the needs of the group as a whole. The delegates need to work as one unit because they need to achieve their common goal. Delegates should know a lot about international law, current treaties, and current global conflicts, and they should work diplomatically to reach an agreement. Basically delegates should know the introduction of the committee and the agenda item really well.

During DISEC sessions, delegates function as international decision makers who establish security regulations which protect the world by decreasing violent activities and restricting weapon access. The committee requests participants to examine current security threats while considering historical security issues to develop practical solutions which international organizations can implement.



Introduction to the Topic

Nuclear weapons possess destructive capabilities that exceed the destructive power of all previous weapons throughout history. A single miscalculation, technical error,

or political crisis between nuclear armed states could lead to escalation with catastrophic global consequences. The world has achieved nuclear war avoidance since 1945 yet the risk remains active. The rising geopolitical tensions between competing nations together with nuclear weapons modernization and decreased weapons control agreements create an urgent need to address nuclear weapons escalation.

The international community established an arms control system which includes non-proliferation treaties under UN leadership to decrease global security threats. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) serves as the fundamental treaty which seeks to prevent nuclear weapons proliferation while promoting peaceful nuclear energy and supporting disarmament efforts. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) supports the system by monitoring nuclear facilities to confirm that countries use their nuclear materials strictly for non-military activities. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) establishes additional treaties which restrict nuclear testing and impede progress toward developing advanced nuclear weapons.

The current situation presents significant obstacles to the functioning of these systems. Several nations are in the process of developing enhanced nuclear weapons systems. Major powers have experienced a decline in trust which resulted in the collapse of several arms control agreements and their current status of incomplete implementation. The introduction of advanced technologies such as cyber warfare and hypersonic missiles and missile defense systems and artificial intelligence brings about fresh challenges to both nuclear strategy development and early warning system implementation. The new developments create increased chances of military misunderstandings which may lead to unintentional nuclear escalation or immediate warfare response.

Definitions

Nuclear Escalation A situation in which political or military tensions between states increase step by step, raising the risk that nuclear weapons could be threatened or used during a crisis.

Arms Control Agreements, laws, rules, and measures are designed to limit, reduce, or regulate the development, testing, production, and deployment of weapons in order to promote stability and reduce the risk of war.

Nuclear Deterrence Security strategy is mostly built on the assumption that as long as a nation possesses nuclear arms, the threat of annihilation in response to an attack serves as an effective deterrent against other states that may wish to act against the nation.

Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) The Cold War developed a doctrine which states that nuclear-armed countries will face total destruction during their warfare so nuclear attacks become an irrational choice.

Non-Proliferation Nuclear weapons and related technology spread prevention efforts target states which lack nuclear capabilities. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons NPT serves as the primary legal framework supporting those efforts.

Disarmament The reduction or complete elimination of a country's military weapons, particularly weapons of mass destruction such as nuclear arms.

Verification The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) conducts monitoring and inspection processes to oversee states' nuclear activities because this is necessary for compliance with arms control agreements.

Hotline Diplomacy Direct communication links between rival states established after the Cuban Missile Crisis to prevent misunderstandings and accidental escalation.

History of the topic

The world witnessed the complete destructive force of nuclear weapons when atomic bombs destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the end of World War II. This event established the nuclear age, which transformed military conflicts and international relations and power dynamics among nations.

The Cold War started immediately after World War II ended because the United States and Soviet Union entered a period of extreme competition. Both powers rapidly developed and stockpiled nuclear weapons to deter each other. The United States and the Soviet Union developed the Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) strategy, which established that any nuclear attack by one side would lead to total destruction for both countries. The doctrine succeeded in stopping direct wars between countries, yet it maintained a steady state of nuclear danger throughout the world. The most dangerous moment of this period occurred during the Cuban Missile

Crisis in 1962, when the discovery of Soviet nuclear missiles in Cuba brought the world to the brink of nuclear war. The crisis showed that military escalation can lead to disastrous results when people fail to understand each other. The two parties established direct communication channels which led to their first arms control negotiations through the creation of a “hotline” between Washington and Moscow.

The Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty (NPT) which was signed in 1968 aims to stop the spread of nuclear weapons while promoting peaceful nuclear energy and encouraging disarmament. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) enhanced its monitoring authority to oversee nuclear programs while preventing military misuse of nuclear materials. The United States and the Soviet Union established multiple bilateral treaties during the 1970s and 1980s which sought to control and decrease their nuclear stockpiles. The Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT I and SALT II) and later the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) were key milestones that slowed the arms race and introduced verification and transparency measures, even if they did not eliminate nuclear weapons entirely. The Cold War reached its end after the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, yet nuclear dangers remained present. Security concerns emerged from the distribution of nuclear weapons throughout the former Soviet territories which made it difficult to maintain control over these areas. The subsequent decades brought increased focus on non-proliferation efforts together with the need to stop new countries from developing nuclear weapons. The 21st century introduced fresh difficulties which require solution. Trust between major powers has declined because some states modernized their nuclear arsenals while several arms control agreements lost their effectiveness. The development of new technologies including cyber capabilities, missile defense systems, hypersonic weapons and artificial intelligence, has created challenges for nuclear strategy and early-warning systems, which now face higher risks of miscalculation.

Nuclear threats today have some similarities to Cold War nuclear threats yet current international relations show greater complexity because multiple powers now compete for influence. The risk of nuclear escalation has expanded beyond its previous boundaries which restricted it to two superpowers now involving various regional and international nations. The world needs to enhance its arms control systems because Cold War methods need modernized solutions to handle current nuclear threat scenarios.

Current Situation

International security currently faces an urgent challenge which requires effective solutions to stop nuclear escalation throughout the world. The end of the Cold War brought about a nuclear environment which has grown more complicated and unpredictable for international relations. The current global situation has moved beyond its previous bipolar structure which existed between two superpowers to a new multipolar framework where multiple nuclear-armed nations control regional and global stability. The United States, Russia, China, France, and the United Kingdom all continue to modernize their nuclear weapons systems. The modernization effort develops delivery systems that deliver greater precision together with hypersonic weapons and advanced submarine-based capabilities. The development of these systems which officials call deterrent systems actually deepens distrust between nations and increases the risk of a new arms race. The existing arms control agreements now face multiple challenges which threaten their effectiveness. Major powers have abandoned key treaties while their operational ties have weakened which creates gaps in monitoring and verification systems. The new challenges make it hard to track nuclear arsenals which creates doubt about how countries will use their military nuclear weapons.

Nuclear threats increase through various factors which include existing regional conflicts. Nuclear-armed nations maintain ongoing political and military conflicts in both South Asia and the Korean Peninsula region. These situations increase the likelihood of miscalculation, especially during crises where communication channels may be limited or ineffective. The introduction of new technologies represents a critical factor which has become essential to understanding the current situation. The military base cyber attacks together with artificial intelligence systems which handle early warning and missile defense systems create new unpredictable elements. The new technologies will reduce the time needed for decision-making processes.

Past Actions

The international community has accomplished several significant achievements during the last three decades to decrease nuclear escalation threats while establishing a global arms control system. The efforts started with the first nuclear weapons development and advanced through Cold War treaties and bilateral agreements and multilateral institutions. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) established itself as one of the first major international treaties to prevent nuclear weapons proliferation. The treaty established a worldwide obligation to stop nuclear weapons spread while promoting peaceful nuclear energy development and pursuing nuclear disarmament. The international non-proliferation

system developed into its fundamental structure through this treaty, which remains the most popular arms control treaty among states today. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) received increased support to help enforce the NPT treaty. The IAEA developed safeguard systems to show nuclear facility operations and show the success of its inspections while stopping military use of nuclear materials from peaceful use. The monitoring system has been essential for building trust between states through its ability to show transparent information. The United States and the Soviet Union, which were the two principal nuclear powers during the Cold War, established multiple bilateral treaties to control their nuclear weapon development. The Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT I and SALT II) were the initial attempts to establish restrictions on strategic ballistic missile development together with basic framework agreements for arms control negotiations.

The Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) treaties introduced advanced arms control methods because they focused on nuclear arsenal size reduction instead of basic weapon quantity restrictions. The treaties established verification methods that involved both on-site research and data analysis.

Conclusion

The international community faces its most severe obstacle through the nuclear escalation threat which continues to endanger global security. The present global situation demonstrates that nuclear arms control systems which governments established since the start of the nuclear era now face mounting difficulties. The current nuclear governance systems experience their most dangerous period because of ongoing geopolitical conflicts, technological changes, and reduced confidence among leading international powers.

Nuclear deterrence prevents direct large-scale conflict according to Cold War historical experiences, however this method does not stop crises from occurring or accidental escalation from happening. The Cuban Missile Crisis demonstrates how nuclear war can result from strategic errors and misunderstanding, which develop into conflict. The current multipolar security situation, which develops through rising complexities, retains these lessons as essential knowledge.

International frameworks such as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the International Atomic Energy Agency verification systems and previous arms reduction treaties have decreased nuclear danger through their existing structures. The states involved need to maintain their cooperative

relationship and transparent communication while they commit to the agreements their states have made.

The process of nuclear escalation prevention needs existing mechanisms to undergo both strengthening and adaptation for current challenges. The process requires diplomats to establish trust between nations and develop advanced methods to prove compliance and enhance channels for diplomatic dialogue and make sure arms control agreements stay effective against emerging military technologies. Diplomatic representatives in the United Nations General Assembly First Committee (DISEC) need to keep working toward their objectives throughout their time in the committee.

Guiding Questions

- Which primary elements contribute to nuclear escalation risk within the current international system?
- Which past events from the Cold War period have influenced present-day nuclear deterrent strategies?
- How did the Cuban Missile Crisis and other crises contribute to the establishment of current arms control systems?
- Do existing treaties like the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons provide enough protection against nuclear proliferation in the present day? Which areas do they struggle with most?
- The International Atomic Energy Agency works to enforce nuclear safeguard agreements through its established verification system. The verification system enables the IAEA to effectively monitor nuclear safeguard compliance.
- The ongoing development of nuclear weapons stockpiles creates disturbances to worldwide military equilibrium.
- New technological advancements including cyber warfare and artificial intelligence and hypersonic weapons systems develop the potential for unintentional nuclear conflict escalation.

- What steps need to happen to establish trust between countries with nuclear weapons and countries without nuclear weapons
- What methods exist to improve the verification and transparency systems used in arms control pacts?
- The United Nations General Assembly First Committee (DISEC) should lead efforts to develop new international nuclear governance systems.
- Complete nuclear disarmament represents an impractical goal while the focus should concentrate on risk control and reduction.

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