



**Reinstating Nuclear Treaties to
decrease the threats of nuclear
warfare**



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Tarana Saha

Deputy President

Forum: The First General Assembly

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Name: Tarana Saha

Position: Deputy President of the First General Assembly

Introduction

Since the start of the development and creation of nuclear weapons, they have only threatened the security of nations. Rather than being used in defense to protect countries, they have been used only to inflict harm on others in the past. Although nuclear weapons have only been used twice in warfare (the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki), it is estimated that almost 200,000 lives were lost. However, nations are yet to realize the full impact of nuclear weapons, as reportedly 13,400 of these weapons of mass destruction remain today, and over 2,000 tests have been conducted up to date, and continue. It suffices to say that the damage they have caused is reason alone to reinstate nuclear treaties to reduce the threat of nuclear warfare in the future and work towards forging peace between nations.

In the past, there have been agreements, like the 1968 Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with Iran that demonstrate nations' commitment to controlling the spread and use of weapons. However for these agreements to be effective all nuclear-armed states, such as The United States of America and The Russian Federation must cooperate fully. Additionally, global cooperation is crucial for disarmament. NATO's policy on preventing threats tries to highlight how having capabilities can encourage disarmament and maintain peace. This emphasizes the challenges faced in limiting weapons.

In light of these mentioned measures and advancements, one way to reduce the risk of conflicts is by reinstating nuclear treaties. However, this can only be achieved through collaboration and engagement from all nations involved. It is essential to renew these efforts to promote peace and security, among nations.

Definition of Key Terms

Non-proliferation Regime

The Non-proliferation regime aims to prevent the distribution of nuclear weapons and promote disarmament. This regime is based on the 1968 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which also refrains non-nuclear-weapon states from trying to acquire nuclear weapons.

Nuclear-armed States

Nuclear-armed states refer to the 9 nations that possess nuclear weapons, these being The United States of America, The United Kingdom, The Russian Federation, France, The People's Republic of China, The Republic of India, The Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Israel and The Democratic People's Republic of Korea. However, only China, The United States, The United Kingdom, Russia, and France are NPT-designated nuclear weapon states.

Nuclear Deterrence

Nuclear Deterrence is a concept that says if a credible threat of retaliation is made, it will prevent the use of nuclear arms. This strategy is said to be risky as it may actually lead to destruction, however, it is believed that this fear of destruction will be what discourages enemies from using nuclear weapons.

Nuclear Disarmament

Nuclear Disarmament refers to the process of limiting or getting rid of nuclear weapons. It can also result in a world where nuclear weapons are eliminated altogether. The process of Nuclear Disarmament is also often referred to as *Denuclearization*.

Nuclear Warfare

Nuclear Warfare, also sometimes referred to as Atomic Warfare is when nuclear weaponry is used in military battle or is used as a part of a political operation.

Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)

According to the U.S. military, Weapons of Mass Destruction or WMDs refer to chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear weapons that can cause damage to structures and the biosphere, and also result in mass casualties.

General Overview

The Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

In August of 1945, a month before the end of World War II, two cities in the South of Japan, Hiroshima and Nagasaki were bombed using nuclear weaponry. This would mark the first and only time nuclear weapons have been used in armed warfare, to this date. Both bombs were detonated by the United States, which was the only nation at the time to have successfully tested a nuclear weapon, just a month before the bombings in Japan. The main goal of The United States was to force the Japanese to surrender quickly to reduce the amount of American lives lost. However, this only caused more lives to be lost, as somewhere between 129,000 and 226,000 people in Japan were killed.

Hiroshima was bombed first, on the 6th of August 1945, and was the primary target of the U.S. military. Before the bombing, the city was known for its industrial significance and military. This is said to be the reason why Hiroshima was chosen for bombing, according to the President of the United States at the time, as Truman had wanted a military target. However, it is also said Hiroshima was also chosen due to the fact it had remained mainly untouched by bombings and was one of the last large cities that remained as so. The nuclear device used, gun-type uranium-235, which was nicknamed 'Little Boy' was dropped onto the city and exploded with an energy of approximately 15 kilotons of TNT. Hiroshima was said to have had more casualties than the two cities that were bombed, with an estimate of 135,000.

The second city bombed on the 9th of August 1945, Nagasaki, wasn't the original target of the second bomb. The two targets chosen by The United States were Hiroshima and Kokura, which had a large amount of Japan's arsenal. However, Kokura was covered by a large cloud, making it difficult for the crew to make its way to the city, which is when they decided to head for their second target, Nagasaki. This time, an implosion-type plutonium-239 device, nicknamed 'Fat Man' was detonated, which caused at least 35,000-40,000 casualties. After the second bombing, Japan was left devastated as its military was now lacking in willpower, and at least 130,000 lives were lost. On August 15th, the emperor of Japan surrendered.

The Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

The Non-proliferation Treaty is an internationally recognized treaty that aims to prevent the distribution of nuclear weapons and to encourage cooperation for the peaceful use of nuclear energy. It also seeks to achieve nuclear disarmament and also complete, general disarmament. After

being negotiated for three years by the Eighteen Nation Committee on Disarmament, it was opened for nations to sign in 1968 and was first implemented in 1970, with The United States of America, The United Kingdom, and (at the time) The Soviet Union being the first nuclear-armed signatories.

The NPT parties then met again 25 years later, in 1995, as required in the text of the NPT, and extended the treaty indefinitely. Less than 50 years after the treaty was first opened, it has become the treaty with the largest number of complying parties. In 2016, it was recorded that 191 states had signed the treaty. However, 3 (presumably) nuclear-armed UN member states are yet to join the treaty, these being the Republic of India, The Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and Israel.

According to the treaty, nuclear-weapon states are nations that had built and tested a nuclear weapon before 1st January 1967, recognizing The United States of America, The Democratic Republic of China, The United Kingdom, The Russian Federation, and France as so.

Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)

The Joint Comprehensive Plan Of Action is one of the nuclear mutual agreements whose aim was to limit Iran's nuclear program and avoid any attempt from Iran to develop nuclear weapons with promises taken of lifting the sanctions that already have been imposed on the country. On 14th July 2015, it was signed by Iran, The United States, China, The United Kingdom, France, Russia, The European Union and Germany. Nevertheless, in 2018, United States President Donald Trump made its withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and as a result, Iran resumed its nuclear activities. On 18 October of 2023, all Iranian sanctions toward arms should have been dropped; however, this did not happen, as Iran had failed to fulfill its commitment to the JCPOA.

Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF)

On the 8th of December 1987, the Soviet Union and the United States of America signed the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty which banned all ground-launched nuclear missiles with a range of 500–5,500 km, however, it did not apply to air or sea-launched missiles. These included ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, and missile launchers. By 1991, the countries had gotten rid of 2,162 nuclear missiles collectively and a new inspection regime was placed for 10 years. However, this treaty was also nullified in 2019 as Trump withdrew from it, stating that the Russian Federation had not complied with the agreements and had breached the treaty by developing an intermediate-range cruise missile. Trump suspended the treaty on February 1st, 2019, and The Russian Federation did so too, the following day.

New START

The New START treaty was created to replace the Treaty of Moscow, which was to expire at the end of 2012. It was signed on 8th April 2010 by The United States of America and The Russian Federation and has been effective since 5th February 2011. The treaty is set to halve each country's strategic nuclear missiles and implement new inspection and verification regimes. It did not, however, set a limit to the number of inactive nuclear warheads. This treaty was also suspended by The Russian Federation in February of 2023, in terms of the nation's participation, but it has stated that it will not withdraw from the treaty and will comply with the limits in the treaty. The treaty is however set to expire in 2026, and so far no consensus has been reached on how to proceed with the treaty.

Threats of the Future Usage of Nuclear Arms

In light of rising conflicts and tension around the world, there is more need than ever to re-establish nuclear treaties to prevent any chance of nuclear warfare from occurring. Many countries that are currently involved in a conflict of some sort are presumed to or have stated to have nuclear weapons. Nuclear warfare can leave catastrophic impressions on not only the targeted nation but also allied nations which could lead to these conflicts increasing and cause suffering countries to retaliate. Therefore the importance of reinstating nuclear treaties to decrease the threat of nuclear warfare is once again emphasized.

Timeline of Key Events

Date	Event
16th of July 1945	The first nuclear bomb test 'Trinity' recorded in history is conducted by the United States in Alamogordo, New Mexico
6th of August 1945	Hiroshima is bombed by the United States using a gun-type uranium-235 weapon, nicknamed 'Little Boy'. 135,000 estimated casualties
9th of August 1945	Nagasaki is bombed by the United States using an implosion-type plutonium-239 device, nicknamed 'Fat Man'. 64,000 estimated casualties

29th of August 1949	The Soviet Union conducts a test for its first atomic bomb
1st of July 1968	The Treaty on Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons was signed by The United States, The Soviet Union, and The United Kingdom. This discouraged the signing countries from distributing nuclear weapons to countries that did not possess them at the time.
8th of December 1987	The Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF) is signed by The United States and The Soviet Union to get rid of intermediate-range missiles.
8th of April 2010	The United States of America and The Russian Federation sign the New Start treaty, which orders more regulations on nuclear weapons, such as halving their respective numbers of strategic nuclear missile launchers and establishes a new inspection and verification regime.
18th of October 2015	The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) is agreed upon by Iran, China, France, The Russian Federation, The United Kingdom, The United States, Germany, and The European Union to
8th of May 2018	The United States withdraws from the JCPOA
January 2023	12,512 nuclear warheads are recorded worldwide of this date
2026	New START treaty is set to expire

Major Parties Involved

France

France is one of the five nuclear-armed states that have been recognized by the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). It tested its first atomic weapon in 1960. The nation currently has approximately 290 nuclear warheads and is considered the world's fourth-largest, recognized nuclear stockpiles. These are mostly can be delivered by submarines or air-to-ground cruise missiles. France has not signed or ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) and has always voted against it at the UN General Assembly since 2018. This is due to concerns over sovereignty, due to lack of involvement in NATO's nuclear command structure. France

possesses independent (non-NATO) nuclear weapons and is the only member of the EU to do so. It has spent around US\$5.6 billion in 2022 to build and keep its nuclear forces.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea)

North Korea is the only former NPT party as it withdrew from the treaty in 2003. It is said to have 30-40 nuclear weapons and has sufficient production of fissile materials to produce six to seven more a year. North Korea conducted its first nuclear test in 2006 and has conducted a total of 6 tests until 2017. North Korea also has been developing nuclear missiles that can reach targets, such as the missile tested in 2017, that has the possibility to reach the United States of America. Due to its nuclear capability and conflicts involving the nation, North Korea is also one of the nations that must sign on to any new treaties that help decrease the threat of nuclear warfare.

India

India is one of the nuclear powers which tested its first-ever atom bomb in 1974. Nuclear weapons, full nuclear fuel cycle capabilities, and a wide range of delivery systems are part of India's nuclear arsenal. The primary focus of India's nuclear weapons development had also concentrated principally on economic growth and national security benefits. India's political goal of its nuclear program is to raise economic growth, and research means for inexpensive endless electricity that this economic theory stresses as important for development makes atomic power technology one that the nation aims to master. Not only will this strengthen its convictions about the rewards of deterrence, shared with China itself, but India's choices are much more limited both due to great power interests and thus reinforcing.

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Pakistan is one of the nine states that have nuclear weapons. The nuclear arms began developing sometime in January 1972 and the first tests were done in May 1998 as a reaction to India's nuclear weapon experiments. The country's nuclear program has posed concerns about possible proliferation, and it is believed to possess about 170 warheads for its atomic weapons. Pakistan still remains outside the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) regime and its nuclear forces have been significantly increased. For instance, Khan A.Q.'s covert international smuggling network partly accounts for the success of this program. In this regard, there are fears that Pakistan's nukes can be taken by terrorists and thus threaten the security of such stockpile

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization

As mentioned in the introduction, NATO has affirmed its policy of discouraging nuclear weapons and strives to uphold this policy. All members of NATO have signed two official documents that outline its nuclear strategy. NATO believes that nuclear capability does not always result in violence, but can also help maintain peace among nations and prevent aggression. As long as full nuclear disarmament does not occur, NATO will remain a powerful nuclear alliance. The purpose of the alliance's nuclear forces is to provide a deterrent, and should only be used as a last resort, as stated by NATO itself.

The People's Republic of China

China is one of the five countries in the world possessing nuclear weapons. It has somewhere around 410 nuclear warheads that can be delivered by air, sea, and land. China's nuclear strategy is based on deterrence through "assured retaliation", which basically means that its nukes are kept at low-alert and the No First Use policy (NFU) is maintained. However, China's recent nuclear investments and statements have raised concerns about the wisdom of China's No First Use policy. All three legs of China's triad are currently being modernized, and many analysts believe that this country's nuclear investments reflect not its great power aspirations but rather its interest in being a nuclear superpower. As such, one is left wondering if US deterrence, arms control and other aspects of its nuclear policies will be applicable within a context where both Russia and China are most likely going to turn out as American peers in terms of nukes.

The Russian Federation

Russia is said to possess about 6,000 nuclear weapons as of 2023, which makes it the nation with the largest nuclear arsenal. Russia has one of the largest and most developed nuclear forces which has been in works since 1943. The nation carried out its first nuclear test in 1949, making it the second country to do so. It was also one of the first nations to sign on to the NPT and has attempted to form numerous treaties with The United States in terms of their respective Nuclear Forces, many of which have now been nullified. Russia's nuclear strategy includes using nuclear weapons in response to violence using conventional weapons, which has been criticized by many other parties. The country has also been criticized for implying nuclear threats during the recent Russia-Ukraine conflict.

The United Kingdom

The UK is one of the five nuclear powers recognized by the Non-Proliferation Treaty, which it ratified in 1968, and has had nuclear weapons since 1952. It has the least among the five nuclear-

weapon states and the only one that has reduced to a single delivery system. UK supports NPT to all its extension while remaining committed to the final elimination of nuclear weapons from our planet. The nation's nuclear deterrent is assigned to NATO defense but it retains full control over it and only the Prime Minister of Britain has a right to sign off on the use of nuclear weapons even in cases of wider NATO response. The United Kingdom has an established history of disarmament. It has been disarming since the end of the Cold War by withdrawing and disassembling its tactical maritime and airborne (the Vulcan was withdrawn from service in March 1984) nuclear capabilities, terminating its nuclear-capable Lance missiles and artillery, thus being the least endowed with nuclear weapons among all acknowledged states possessing them and accounting for less.

The United States of America

The United States of America has the second largest arsenal of nuclear weapons with almost 5,500 to date, following closely behind the Russian Federation. It was the first country to test a nuclear weapon and is also the only country to use nuclear forces amidst warfare (Hiroshima-Nagasaki Bombings). The country has also conducted a total of 1,054 tests and has spent over 10 trillion dollars on developing its nuclear weapons. The USA's current policies on its nuclear forces are to deter nuclear attacks on the nation and its allies, assure its allies that their deterrence needs will be met, and immediately take action to lessen the damage if nuclear deterrence fails.

Possible Solutions

One solution to this issue would be to begin more international discussions between nations on the topic of nuclear arms control and engage in negotiations between all nuclear-armed states, including nuclear powers such as India, Pakistan, North Korea, and presumably Israel. These discussions could be facilitated within the United Nations, which could help establish multi-lateral diplomacy through cooperation and transparency.

Existing treaties, such as the New START treaty can be extended or re-evaluated, or previous nuclear arms treaties can be renewed which help control the number and spread of strategic nuclear weapons. Additionally, new treaties can be ratified that are more up-to-date with current technological advancements and threats that were not covered in the older treaties. New treaties can also help more frameworks to be created on how to limit the development and detonation of nuclear weapons.

Other ideas may include inserting compliance measures in treaties, which state that countries who do not act in accordance with the treaties are given the appropriate retribution for their actions. Nuclear-armed states can also be monitored accordingly, using technologies such as satellite imaging, on-site inspections, and information sharing.

Further Reading

Further explanation on the Non-Proliferation Nuclear Weapon Treaty (NPT)

<https://disarmament.unoda.org/wmd/nuclear/npt/>

NATO's nuclear deterrence policy and forces

https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_50068.htm

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