

## **SECURITY COUNCIL**

### **Topic B: Establishing Measures to Prevent Nuclear Proliferation**

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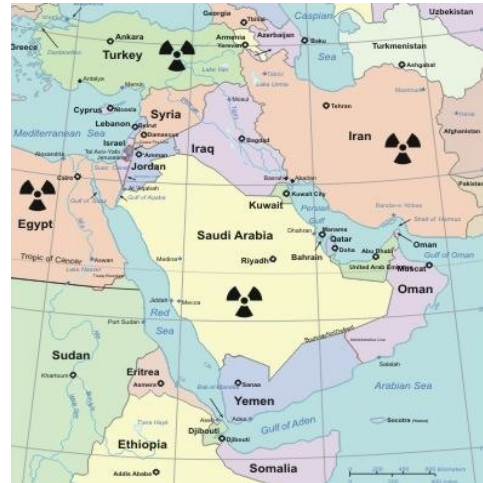
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## Background Information

Nuclear power is the use of sustained nuclear fission to generate heat and electricity. According to the World Nuclear Association, the nuclear power plants provides about 6% of the world's energy and 13–14% of the world's electricity. According to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) report, there are 439 nuclear power reactors in operation in the world spread around 31 different countries.

Over the past few years the world has seen a marked increase in the number of states either actively engaging in the development of nuclear power programs or at least declaring their future intentions of doing so. Countries in the Middle East, have been among the most active in expressing their interest in developing non-weaponized, nuclear energy programs. In some quarters, these intentions have caused alarm, particularly as the region is viewed as potentially unstable and in favor of the conflict. Opponents of nuclear energy programs in the Middle East often state that their concerns are based on legitimate fears of the development of a region-wide arms race, and how the countries may be threatened by such programs.



### SALT

During the Cold War, the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaties focused on armament control policies of the two superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union. The details of the treaties concern the uses and deployments of different types of ballistic nuclear weapons, further limiting research on missile technologies. The most notable development concerning regulations



and limitations of nuclear material came in 1986. Located within the borders of the Ukrainian SSR, Reactor 4 of the Chernobyl Nuclear Plant suffered a meltdown on April 26th, 1986. Post-catastrophe reports indicate that several faults in reactor and coolant design as well as operating procedures were found. After the incident, the IAEA did a complete overhaul of its inspection and nuclear safety protocols.

## Iran

Iran started developing nuclear technology in 1950, when the United States helped launch their first civil nuclear program in an effort to supply information and research institutions through the Atoms for Peace program. During the 1990s, Russia and Iran started joint research operations and Iran continued developing uranium enrichment capabilities throughout the decade. Despite these efforts, Iran has been a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) since 1970, a three-pillar accord that stipulates disarmament, non-proliferation, and the sovereign right to the use of nuclear technology for peaceful means. This also gives the IAEA jurisdiction to inspect nuclear facilities and ensure compliance with what is imposed by the NPT. Iran has stated that its nuclear research program is purely for peaceful means and invokes the inalienable right of states to nuclear energy. Much of the international community, however, has expressed concern over the relative ease to obtain weapons-grade nuclear material after civilian enrichment capabilities have been achieved, expressing fear towards Iran's intentions. A greater concern is how the emergence of a nuclear power in the Middle East might affect the stability of the region and the globe. In 2011, the IAEA reported that Iran was developing nuclear weapons. Nevertheless, president Ahmadinejad refuted these statements, claiming they were based on fabricated evidence. Tensions have been quickly escalating between Iran and the United States and Israel, especially after two Iranian nuclear technicians were killed in two different explosions. Iran accuses the United States and Israel for being behind the deaths of the technicians.



## Israel

Israel has maintained a long standing stance of opacity regarding its nuclear program. Although it is suspected to have built numerous nuclear armaments, Israel refuses to confirm the existence of these. Although there have been inspections by the IAEA, these have been deemed unreliable since the Israeli government was aware of the schedule of the inspectors, which may cause changes in the field due to the inspection. In 1986, a low-level nuclear technician from the Dimona plant, Mordechai Vananu, gave an interview to a UK newspaper declaring that Israel's nuclear program had produced nuclear weapons. Vananu was soon arrested and charged with espionage and treason by the Israeli government. Many countries, notoriously Iran, have criticized Israel's ambiguity regarding the issue and have pressed for thorough inspections of Israel's nuclear facilities.

## North Korea

The Korean War's 1953 armistice didn't bring peace to the Korean Peninsula as tensions frequently escalate due to North Korea's erratic conduct and nuclear program. In August 1998, North Korea launched a long-range ballistic missile rocket, surprising the world. In 2003, after the US accused it for having started an illegal enriched uranium weapons program, North Korea withdrew from the 1968 Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which theoretically prevented the country from making nuclear weapons. As a result, Six Party Talks between North Korea, South Korea, China, Japan, Russia and the United States commenced with the objective of finding a peaceful solution to North Korea's nuclear program. Nonetheless, on February 10, 2005, North Korea declared it possessed nuclear weapons, and negotiation talks intensified, leading to the September 2005 Agreement. North Korea compromised to give up its nuclear weapons, return to the NPT and allow IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) inspections in exchange of for economic and political benefits. However, North Korea performed nuclear tests and announced it had detonated a nuclear device in 2006 and 2009. In February 2013, North Korea performed the third nuclear test, which it claimed to a high-level test that used a miniaturized device, though analysts believe it has not yet developed a the capability of firing a nuclear-armed missile.



## India and Pakistan

Since the partition of the Indian subcontinent in 1947 into India and Pakistan, the relations between these nations has been marked by hostility and tensions, particularly after both have developed their nuclear programs. In 1974, India exploded a nuclear device, which became known as Smiling Buddha, near the Pakistan border claiming it was for peaceful purposes. Consequently, Pakistan accelerated its nuclear weapons program. In May 1998, both states exploded several nuclear devices underground, demonstrating their nuclear capability, and increasing concerns regarding an arms race. Neither have signed the NPT, and India has been very critical of the NPT since its establishment claiming its one-sided. Nevertheless, the 2008 agreements and 2014 ratification of the Additional Protocol has granted India's program international recognition.

## Timeline

**August 6, 1945** – United States drop an atomic bomb in the city of Hiroshima killing 80,000 people and ending the Second World War.

**August 29, 1949** – the Soviet Union conducted its first nuclear weapon device and became the second nation in the world to detonate a nuclear device.

**1950** – Iran began to pursue Nuclear Technology with the help of the USA.

**1968** – Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

**May 1974** – India exploded its first nuclear device.

**February 23, 1998** – The USA announces concerns that Iran's nuclear energy program could lead to the development of nuclear weapons.

**January, 2003** – North Korea announced that was withdrawing from the treaty.

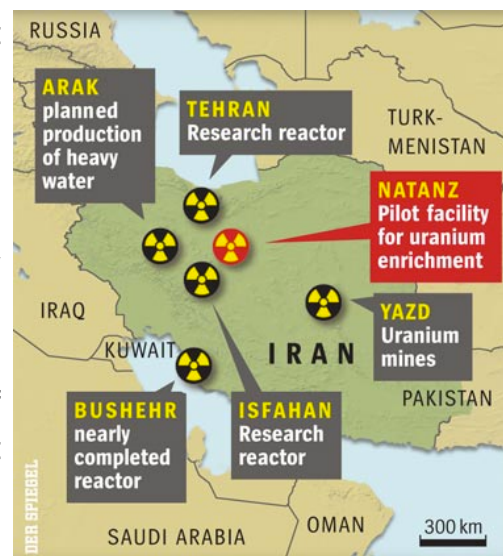
**February 21, 2003** – USA claims that Iran seeks to produce nuclear weapons, the IAEA's director visits Iran and encourages its leaders to allow inspectors more access to its nuclear site, however Iran declines.

**April 2003** - North Korea withdrawals from the NPT

**June 19, 2003** – The IAEA issues a report saying that Iran appeared to be in compliance with the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

**October 21, 2003** – Iran agrees to suspend processing and enriching uranium and allow unannounced inspections by the IAEA.

**November 12, 2003** – The IAEA finds no evidence of a nuclear program but expresses concern about plutonium production. Iran's president says the material is for pharmaceutical use.



**2005** - The IAEA referred Iran to the UN Security Council for failing to comply with its Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Safeguards Agreement

**February 10, 2005** - North Korea declared its possession of nuclear weapons

**April 11, 2006** – Ahmadinejad declares that Iran has joined the list of countries with nuclear technology, confirming the production of low-grade enriched uranium at a level sufficient to power nuclear power plants.

**December 23, 2006** – The Security Council votes unanimously to impose sanctions on Iran for failing to curb its enrichment program, the first of several rounds of sanctions imposed by the U.N., the European Union and individual countries over the next few years.

**February 24, 2012** – In a leaked report, the IAEA says that Iran has significantly stepped up its enrichment program and that the agency continues to have "serious concerns" about potential military uses

**March 3, 2012** – U.S. President Barack Obama warns that "all elements of American power" remain an option to prevent Iran from becoming a nuclear power.

**March 5, 2012** – In a trip to the United States, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warns that time for a diplomatic solution is running out.

**2012** - The US and EU began imposing additional sanctions on Iranian oil exports and banks, crippling Iran's economy.

**January 16-17 2013** –The IAEA held talks with Tehran over allegations that tests had been carried out for atomic weapons triggers, but failed to produce an agreement.

**November 2013** - Iran and the six world powers (China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States), known as the P5+1, reached the agreement after three rounds of talks with Tehran's new negotiating team; a six-month deal that will halt Iran's most sensitive nuclear activities and increase international monitoring of its nuclear program in exchange for some relief from sanctions that have hurt Iran's economy.

**February 2014** – Implementation of the NPT safeguards agreement in Iran.

## Key Words

**Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT):** An international treaty whose objective is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament. Currently, the NPT has 189 state parties, including the five Nuclear Weapons States: the United States, France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and People's Republic of China.

**International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA):** An international organization with 159 member states that seeks to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy and inhibit its use for any military purpose, including nuclear weapons.

**CTBT:** The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty bans all nuclear explosions in all environments, for military or civilian purposes. It was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 September 1996 but it has not entered into force.

**Limited Test Ban Treaty (LTBT):** A treaty prohibiting all test detonations of nuclear weapons except underground.

**SALT:** The Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty. It aimed to prevent the excess radiation from nuclear weapon tests and slow the nuclear weaponry Cold War race.

**Security Council Resolution 1929:** adopted on 9 June 2010, after recalling resolutions 1696, 1737, 1747, 1803, 1835 and 1887 concerning the topics of Iran and non-proliferation imposed further sanctions on Iran.



## Guiding Questions

- Should the UN impose economic sanctions if its proven that both Israel and Iran have nuclear weapons?
- Should another treaty be created or should the NPT be strengthened?
- Should the IAEA inspect nations without mentioning the date?
- To what extent does nuclear power bring political balance and stabilization to a region?
- What should be the consequences of having nuclear weapons? To what extent are sanctions effective in preventing nuclear proliferation and deescalating conflict?
- Based on what terms do nations have a right to have nuclear power?
- To what extent are investigations about countries' nuclear programs infringements of national sovereignty?

## Further Research

[http://www.iaea.org/Publications/Factsheets/English/npt\\_chrono.html](http://www.iaea.org/Publications/Factsheets/English/npt_chrono.html)

<http://www.un.org/en/conf/npt/2005/npttreaty.html>

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