

# General Assembly 1

Reducing Worldwide Nuclear Arsenal and  
Missiles

<b>Forum</b>	General Assembly 1
<b>Issue:</b>	Reducing worldwide nuclear arsenal and missiles
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## Introduction

Nuclear arsenal and missiles are some of the most dangerous weapons to date, their use has increased in armed conflict in recent years, currently there are around twelve thousand nuclear weapons as of early 2023, which are mostly owned by the United States of America and Russia, as well as over two thousand nuclear tests conducted.

What many people don't seem to know is how using such weapons can have a larger impact than what most people think. One nuclear weapon can kill almost a whole city in less than 10 seconds, it also emits big amounts of heat, and radiation with the energy of the blast. That blast can cause death, lung injuries, internal bleeding, and ear damage, as well as the strong thermal radiation emitted can cause severe burns and start fires and firestorms, an example of that would be the first nuclear bomb created by the United States of America and used to bomb Hiroshima, Japan in 1945.

Nuclear weapons also have a big impact on the environment as much as the impact it has on the civilians, using nuclear weapons could lead to a nuclear war, which would cause a disruption in the climate, this would cause the world to go through something called a nuclear winter which leads to deadly global famine and a rapid increase the effects of global warming. They also receive a lot of financial support which could be used in different sectors more efficiently such as healthcare and green technologies.

The first nuclear bomb was made by the United States of America in 1945, and it was used on Hiroshima, Japan in 1945. There were many reactions to the bombing, they were described as a mix of relief, pride, worry, and fear, mainly from American civilians. However civilians from other states such as the united Kingdom described feeling a sense of shock and horror, as this was a new and powerful discovery which was not expected.



In recent years, technological developments have allowed new forms of weapons to appear such as precision-guided ballistic and cruise missiles, however the overall inventory of nuclear weapons has been declining but at a slower pace in comparison to the past thirty years.

Currently there are no legal multilateral treaties to deal with the issues of nuclear weapons and missiles, this is due to the complications of classifying those weapons as they are very diverse when it comes to the types.

There are currently nine states that possess nuclear weapons, these states include the following countries: the United States of America, Russia, France, China, the United Kingdom, Pakistan, India, Israel, and North Korea. There are four of those states that are not parties to the non-proliferation treaty (NPT) which are India, Israel, Pakistan, and North Korea, as well as North Korea which had initiated a withdrawal procedure in 2003

## Definition of Key Terms

### Multilateral

When three or more groups or countries are involved

### Weapon Proliferation

The increase in the number of weapons and the components used to produce them

### Prohibit

To completely decline allowing something

### Abolition

An act or officially stopping an activity or action



## General Overview

### The creation of nuclear weapons, 1945

The United States formed an advisory committee on uranium in 1939, however they didn't take action until the bombing of pearl harbour in 1941 where they started uranium development and potential for an atomic bomb had started to appear. This led to the United States' Army Corps to create the Manhattan Engineer district in 1942. Colonel Leslie Groves was head of the project. They had started the Manhattan project in Los Alamos to construct the atomic bomb using the isotope of uranium U-238. After years of work, they had produced the first atomic bomb known as Little Boy, which was used to bomb Hiroshima, Japan in 1945 and was the first atomic bomb ever made, then followed by the second bomb known as Fatman which was used to bomb Nagasaki, Japan.

### Nuclear arms race, 1948-1955

After the United States created the first atomic bomb the Soviet Union rushed to respond with the production of their first nuclear weapon in 1949, known as RDS-1 which has very similar technology to the Fatman bomb. Afterwards, in 1952, the United States had produced the Hydrogen bomb (H-bomb) which is at least a hundred times stronger than an atomic bomb, this urged the Soviet Union to produce their own H-bomb, and by 1955 they had successfully detonated their first H-bomb and ending the nuclear arms race between the United States and the Soviet Union.

### The cold war, 1947-1991

The cold war was between the United States of America and the Soviet Union and their respective allies. Nuclear weapons were used by the United States of America in a structured manner to deter any attack by the Soviet Union. The United States of America maintained the use of nuclear weapons to convince any aggressors, mainly the Soviet Union, that their acts of aggression would be far more than the benefits to discourage them from attacking in any way possible. Those threats included "massive retaliation" and "assured destruction" as threatened by the United States of America.



## Major Parties Involved

### International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

The agency was established in 1957 and is responsible for developing civilian nuclear applications and limiting military applications

### International Court of Justice (ICJ)

The ICJ is a judicial organ of the United Nations, its role is to settle legal disputes in relevance to international law to give advisory opinions on legal matters that are brought up by the United Nations organs and other specialized agencies

## Timeline of Key Events

Date	Description of event
August 6 <sup>th</sup> 1945	Dropping the first nuclear bomb on Hiroshima, Japan
August 9 <sup>th</sup> 1945	Dropping the second nuclear bomb on Nagasaki, Japan
January 24 <sup>th</sup> 1946	United Nations calls for elimination of atomic weapons
July 29 <sup>th</sup> 1957	IAEA is created
August 5 <sup>th</sup> 1963	Partial Test Ban Treaty opens for signature
July 1 <sup>st</sup> 1968	Non-proliferation treaty (NPT) was signed
March 5 <sup>th</sup> 1970	NPT was put into force
December 8 <sup>th</sup> 1987	The Soviet Union and United States of America sign the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty
September 24 <sup>th</sup> 1996	Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) opens for signature

## UN involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

- The issue of missiles in all its aspects, 18 August 2004 (A/59/287)
- The issue of missiles in all its aspects, 28 July 2008 (A/63/176)
- Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations, 11 January 2017 (A/RES/71/258)



## Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

Nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT) was adopted in 1968 and put into effect in 1970, it is built on three main points, non-proliferation, disarmament, and peaceful uses. It is now one of the foundations for the collective security system which maintains international peace and security

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) was adopted on July 7<sup>th</sup> 2017 and signed September 20<sup>th</sup> 2017, however it was only entered into force on January 22<sup>nd</sup> 2021. This treaty was placed to prevent states from doing the following: developing, testing, producing, acquiring, possessing, stockpiling, using, or threatening to use nuclear weapons.

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is a treaty that bans all nuclear explosions whether it is military related or peaceful purposes, it was signed on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September 1996 and as of November 2023 177 states have given formal consent making it formally valid, while 9 states have signed it but have not officially given formal consent to it.

## Possible Solutions

Placing financial sanctions on states that have a stockpile of nuclear weapons and missiles would discourage those countries from keeping said stock as a sanction will largely impact their economic status as they are mostly developed countries relying on world trade.

Placing penalties on countries which can range from fifty million to two hundred million dollars depending on the number of nuclear weapons and missiles that are under their power.

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