



**UNITED AMBASSADORS  
MODEL UN CONFERENCE (UA-MUNC)  
UNITED NATIONS OFFICE IN GENEVA, 2019  
SECRETARY-GENERAL REPORTS**





# Security Council

Distr: General  
Date: 29 November 2019  
Original: English

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First Session

## Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction

**Report of the UA-MUNC Secretary-General  
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### Introduction

*"I urge all Member States to recommit themselves to taking action."* Said Mr. Ban Ki Moon in 7758th meeting on 23rd August 2016.

1. Among the founding principles of the United Nations the elimination of weapons of mass destruction is the priority and urgent actions are required. There is a multilateral framework of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) and instruments including resolution 1540 (2004), is providing protection but the challenges to achieving a world free of nuclear weapons is the urgent requirement for the international Community.
2. The global strategies are fluctuating and dangerous than ever and Technological advances have made the means of production and methods of delivery of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials cheaper, easier and more accessible. However, this is the time when we face greater danger than ever, elimination of weapons of mass destruction is the most important obligation on the member states.
3. The only sure way to prevent the human, environmental and existential destruction that these weapons can cause is by eradicating them once and for all. To attain that shared dream, the international community, must ensure that the disarmament and non-proliferation framework is universally and completed implemented, and is resilient and versatile enough to grapple with a changing environment<sup>1</sup>.
4. The global community needs better leadership to develop future initiatives to achieve a world free of weapons of mass destruction.<sup>2</sup> It is time to refocus seriously on nuclear disarmament. The outcome of the Open-ended Working Group on Taking Forward Multilateral Nuclear Disarmament Negotiations demonstrated that there are many

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<sup>1</sup> S/PV.7758, United Nations Security Council "Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction", [https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=S/PV.7758](https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/PV.7758)

<sup>2</sup> Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council, 18th Supplement 2012-2013 "Non-proliferation" [https://www.un.org/en/sc/repertoire/2012-2013/Part%20I/Thematic%20issues/2012-2013\\_B.%20Non-proliferation.pdf](https://www.un.org/en/sc/repertoire/2012-2013/Part%20I/Thematic%20issues/2012-2013_B.%20Non-proliferation.pdf)



possible approaches to this task. While more needs to be done to bridge the divide within the international community and collective efforts must complement and strengthen the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, including the NPT. Member states need to address the issues of the spread of weapons of mass destruction in a spirit of compromise, with full respect for agreed objectives, common values and core principles<sup>3</sup>.

5. With the development in technology and economic development we all aim towards a peaceful state, however, the possession and fear of usage by non-state actors of weapons of mass destruction has become a reality for all the member states. At this hour, we need to focus on the prevention of the rise of chemical weapons and to form programmes and policies which can not only focus on prevention but nullify the making of chemical weapons too. We need to restrain non-state actors from obtaining the materials, devices and technology which can lead to the production of chemical weapons<sup>4</sup>.
6. Furthermore, there is an urgent need to have a mechanism to respond and react to a chemical weapon attack. Therefore, member states need to come together and form global policies for the safeguard of the world from a chemical weapons attack<sup>5</sup>.

## **Introduction to the Committee, its Jurisdiction, and Mandate**

7. The United Nations Security Council was created for the maintenance of peace and security in the world. The aim and purpose of the Security Council are to deal with the situations which cause the threat to peace and to determine whether there is the need for the intervention of the Security Council in any situation of threat. UNSC has 5 permanent members and 10 non-permanent members who are elected for the term of two years. For the other member's elections takes place in general assembly every year in October. For a successful election, 9 members out of 15 members must be present and voting. At the bringing there were only 11 members in the Security Council, However, as per Article 23 of UN Charter after the amendment on 17th December 1963 the resolution 1991 A the members of Security council increased from 11 to 15<sup>6</sup>. The Five permanent members of Security Council are China, France, Russia, United Kingdom and United States of America<sup>7</sup>.
8. Under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, the Security Council has the power to take actions to maintain or restore international peace and security. The Security Council can take sanction measures provided under Article 41 under which there are many enforcement options to control situations of threat. The security council has exercised the powers under article 41 in 30 sanctions regimes in Southern Rhodesia, South Africa, the former Yugoslavia, Haiti, Iraq, Angola, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia and Eritrea, Liberia, DRC, Côte d'Ivoire, Sudan, Lebanon, DPRK, Iran, Libya.

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<sup>3</sup> S/RES/1747 (2007), "United Nations Security Council", [https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1747\(2007\)](https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1747(2007))

<sup>4</sup> S/RES/1696 (2006), "United Nations Security Council" [https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1696\(2006\)](https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1696(2006))

<sup>5</sup> S/2016/44\*, "United Nations Security Council", [https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=S/2016/44](https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2016/44)

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/WMP%20A%20RES%201991A%20XVIII.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/current-members>



Guinea-Bissau, Yemen, CAR, Mali and South Sudan and ISIL, Al-Qaida and the Taliban. There are different sanctions exercised by the Security Council and are measured from economic and trade sanctions, arms embargoes, travel bans, and financial or commodity restriction. The security council has applied Sanctions to restore peace, to counter-terrorism, to protect human rights and to promote non-proliferation.

9. Non-proliferation has become one of the main concern of the United Nations and measures are required to maintain and restore international peace and security. The sanctions are applied as comprehensive strategies for peacekeeping, peacebuilding and peace-making. Sanctions are not Punitive but they work as a medium for governments and UN peacekeepers to work together for peaceful transactions. Thereby, SC has the power to apply sanction in extreme circumstances to target political, economic and security measures<sup>8</sup>.
10. The main difference between the permanent members and the non-permanent members consists of the special power of the "right to veto", granted along with the permanent status in the Security Council. This means that if any of the 5 permanent members vote against a document, then it will not be adopted. Any formal documents (most notably draft resolutions, presidential statements, and press statements) must be voted upon by 'acclamation,' and require at least 9 votes in favor, as well as none against by a permanent member.
11. On the basis of Chapter VII of the UN Charter on "Action with respect to threats to the peace, breaches of the peace, and acts of aggression", the Security Council may decide to call upon Member States to apply measures such as "complete or partial interruption of economic relations and of rail, sea, air, postal, telegraphic, radio, and other means of communication, and the severance of diplomatic relations". On the basis of Article 42, the Security Council "may take such actions by air, sea, or land forces as may be necessary to maintain or restore international peace and security" when the measures provided for by Article 41 are inadequate, hence it can prescribe the use of force in response to threats to peace, breaches of the peace and acts of aggression.

## **Topic Background**

### **The threat posed by weapons of mass destruction to the world**

12. In the recent time of the major concern has become the threat posed by the weapons of mass destruction as it directly affects the security and foreign policy of the member nations. In 2002, when President Bush addressed in General assembly the situation of Iraq's alleged possession of weapons of mass destruction it becomes the matter of utmost importance<sup>9</sup>.

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/sanctions/information>

<sup>9</sup> NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY, ("The United States has long maintained the option of pre-emptive actions to counter a sufficient threat to our national security. The greater the threat, the greater the risk of inaction-and the more compelling the case for taking anticipatory action to defend ourselves, even if uncertainty remains as to the time and place of the enemy's attack."); Press Release, White House, President George Bush Discusses Iraq in National Press Conference, 39 WEEKLY COMP.PRES. DOC. 295, 296 (Mar. 6, 2003), 2336 available at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/03/0000-8.html> (last visited Oct. 21, 2003) ("Saddam Hussein has a long history of reckless aggression and terrible crimes. He possesses weapons of terror. He provides funding and training and safe haven to terrorists- terrorists who would willingly use weapons of mass destruction against America and other peace-loving countries. Saddam Hussein and his weapons are a direct threat to this country, to our people, and to all free people. If the world fails to confront the threat posed by the Iraqi regime, refusing to use force, even as a last resort, free nations would assume immense and un- acceptable risks. The attacks of September the 11th, 2001, showed what the enemies of America did with four airplanes. We will not



13. The same issue was covered in the UN security council resolution 1441 allowing Iraq to adhere to security council resolutions<sup>10</sup>. However, after the USA and British invasion of Iraq, the US regime has become the new age strategy to assess the threat to national security. The possession of weapons of mass destruction was possessed by states as well as non-state actors which lead to the constant fear of terrorist attacks at anytime, anywhere. The countries, such as North Korea and Iraq posed more alarming concerns with their nuclear weapons capabilities and upcoming nuclear weapon programmes. With time everyone started to understand the seriousness of the issue and foreign policymakers and scholars all around the world started to recognise and address the issue to provide safety to their people. The term "weapons of mass destruction" itself defines the meaning of it as it not only affects a region or country but mass populations at large. With the development of laws, in a case of the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons, in advisory opinion ICJ provided that the three international documents that controlled and regulated the weapons of mass destruction are explained in arms control treaties, International law on the use of force and International humanitarian law<sup>11</sup>.
14. However, the most direct and important connection to monitor the weapons of mass destruction with the help of international bodies and instruments drafted to restrict the development, possession and use of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons by states<sup>12</sup>.

## **Past International Actions**

### **The Role of UNSC resolution 2325**

15. The adoption of UNSC resolution 2325 the security council addressed the threat to international peace and security due to the position of chemical weapons by terrorist organizations. The situations in Libya, Kuwait and many other nations established that certain situations can lead to mass murders and genocide. In resolution 2325, the UNSC addressed the issue of proliferation and delivery of chemical weapons constitutes a constant threat to society. To address this issue, all the member states were called to enhance the measures to control the proliferation of chemical weapons and weapons of mass destruction at national, regional and international levels<sup>13</sup>.
16. Further, the issue was addressed when the situation of threat to international peace and security was addressed in UNSC resolution 2270 (2016). The nuclear test done by Korea become the utmost concern of the security council as it violated the resolution 1718, 1874, and 2094. Whereas the United Nations was focusing on establishing the global aim of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, on the other hand, the nuclear test posed as a danger to stability and peace in the realm.

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wait to see what terrorists or terrorist states could do with weapons of mass destruction. We are determined to confront threats wherever they arise. I will not leave the American people at the mercy of the Iraqi dictator and his weapons.").

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.un.org/Depts/unmovic/documents/1441.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.icj-cij.org/files/case-related/95/095-19960708-ADV-01-00-EN.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> *ibid*

<sup>13</sup> See also UNSC resolution 2321 (2016), resolution 2371 (2017), resolution 2375 (2017), and resolution 2379(2017)



17. During 2016 and 2017, the major threat becomes acquirement of chemical weapons by terrorist organizations. UN received final affirmation realizing the security situation in Libya which constituted a threat to regional and international peace and continued with the issues faced in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cote d'Ivoire, Congo, Lebanon, Mali, Somalia, Liberia, Syria, South Sudan, Yemen and the Central African Republic. Also, it was confirmed by then that much terrorist organization possess chemical and biological weapons which were an imminent threat to community and society<sup>14</sup>.

### **UNSC Resolution 1540**

18. UNSC has been making ruled for the safety of the world and global development. However, world politics and the race to be ahead of each other always ends up being in the situation which leads to danger to global safety and security. To resolve the actions and threats of terrorism the United Nations Security Council adopted resolution 1540. The resolution was adopted on 28th April 2004 and all member states adopted the resolution unanimously. The resolution aimed at prevention of possession or acquiring nuclear, biological and chemical weapons by non-state actors<sup>15</sup>.
19. The resolution acted as a bridge in addressing the situation and threat caused by terrorists after obtaining the weapons of mass destruction, its proliferation and use. The gravity of the resolution can be analyzed by understanding the nature of the resolution as it is adopted under Chapter VII of the Charter which establishes that the proliferation and possession of weapons of mass destruction by terrorist organizations is a threat to international peace and security. The Resolution 1540 enhances the approach of Resolution 1373 in 2001, this required all the member states to adopt the measures to frame national counter-terrorism laws and implement legally binding obligations to have effective measures to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction with special emphasis on non-state actors. <sup>16</sup>.
20. There are three main issues address in the resolution, first, all the state parties are not allowed to facilitate or support to non-state actors who possess or seeking to acquire the weapons of mass destruction or any related materials. Second, all member states to adopt and enforce the laws criminalizing the possession of weapons of mass destruction or related materials or related in assistance or financing their acquisition. Third, All the member states to adopt and enforce the national's laws to control nuclear, chemical and biological weapons by any means to prevent their proliferation.

### **Turkey-Iran Crisis**

21. After the four centuries of peace, the relation of these two nations become conflicted as they are located in the most turbulent region of the world. The border of Turkey and Iran were the same since 1639 but with the recent changes and the fight for Kurdistan started affecting turkey on a large scale too. The terrorist parties of Kurdistan become

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<sup>14</sup>[https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/sites/www.un.org.securitycouncil/files/part\\_vii\\_final\\_for\\_webposting.pdf](https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/sites/www.un.org.securitycouncil/files/part_vii_final_for_webposting.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/1540>

<sup>16</sup><https://www.un.org/sc/ctc/resources/databases/recommended-international-practices-codes-and-standards/united-nations-security-council-resolution-1373-2001/>



a threat for Iran when Iran developed the idea to seek nuclear weapons as a matter of security as well as parties to aggravated sanctions which they started as the motive to change in regime. One after another nuclear test started taking place in Iran it becomes a threat to Turkey as well as many other nations as well. Iran started the nuclear threat on the basis to protect their state and citizens but later it becomes means that could fulfil the motives of political leaders.

22. The only way left with turkey was diplomatic dialogue. The sanctions on Iran was affecting turkey's economy as well. As turkey being a neighbor to Iran, it is seen from a different perspective than other members nations of the UN. Even if the turkey is not a party to any conflict but it is seen and counted as a conflicted nation. The security council has not been liberal with turkey too. As all the trade and investment sanction to Iran were affecting turkey's economy drastically<sup>17</sup>. However, the turkey was clear with its motive that there should not be any change of regime in the NPT due to the Iranian crisis and it should not become an obstacle the transaction among other member nation related to civilian nuclear energy.
23. The requirement was to create more effective non-proliferation regime, especially by the permanent member states not being the double standards. such as the nuclear deal between India and the United States did a disservice to the NPT regime.
24. The special attention and care are needed in the case of middle east nations where the threat is so prominent that some of the nations will never leave their nuclear power and will hold on to it unless there is the situation of peace in the region of the middle east. Hence, all the member states need to promote the total denuclearization of the Middle east region.

### **Role of International organisations and Key players**

25. The supreme authority for the maintenance of peace and security all around the world is UNSC. The initiative taken by the OPCW, IAEA and UNSC in controlling the disarmament of nuclear weapons have been very successful and fits into global ambit to the guidelines for the maintenance of peace and security. At present, the issues require all the international agencies to be proactive providing timely initiatives and actions. The cooperation between OPCW and IAEA have been playing a key role in achieving and fostering peace and international cooperation. The states need to realize their responsibility towards the international instruments such as i.e. NPT, CWC, IAEA and OPCW<sup>18</sup>.
26. However, most of the sates are binding by the legal treaty obligations where parties have committed to preventing the proliferation of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons. Many states, over the period, have taken measures which have effectively secured and protected the researches for the protection of nuclear material and falls within the permit of recommendations under code of conduct on the safety and security of radioactive sources by the IAEA.

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<sup>17</sup> <http://edam.org.tr/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/Preventing-the-Proliferation-of-WMD-What-Role-for-Turkey.pdf>

<sup>18</sup> During the UNPROFOR (*United Nations Protection Force*) mission, Norwegian troupes were equipped with 10 CAMs (*Chemical Agent Monitor*) programmed to be able to signal the presence of chlorine (CWCB 1994, 24). In the course of the following IFOR mission (*Implementation Force*) "*Intelligence Community resources collected and analysed materials (in direct support of US forces in Bosnia) to identify potential CW capabilities in the region*" (Shelby 1997).



27. The cooperation, consultation and reporting are required among nations to address the common problems faced by everyone. For an efficient solution, all the member states are required to make complementing efforts to achieve our goals by peaceful means.

### **Case Studies**

28. The world is still struggling with the after-effects of the Gulf War which was fought ten years ago. The question of doubt remains the same whether Iran possesses weapons of mass destruction or any raw material which can further create weapons of mass destructions. The people of Iran despite having the best-developed schools, universities, hospitals and infrastructure constantly live in fear. The effects of a long war with Iran and followed sanctions is acted as a scar of the face of the middle east. A war which was fought to liberate Kuwait has resulted in nothing but the constant fear of the nationals who struggle within themselves<sup>19</sup>.

### **Future Recommendations**

29. There are certain steps which can be taken for drafting and implementing the route map for nuclear disarmament. First, the introduction of new policies for the promotion of disarmament and non-proliferation. Second, diplomatic dialogues among diplomats, policymakers and academicians to initiate discussion on disarmament in nuclear weapon states which could lead to confidence- building and the possibilities of specific regional arrangements. Third, reconsider and revise the fundamental international instruments i.e. Nuclear Test Ban Treaty<sup>20</sup>, The Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty<sup>21</sup> and the IAEA Additional Protocol<sup>22</sup>. Forth, adhering to the principles of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty<sup>23</sup> and its rectification. Fifth, fulfilling the responsibilities under NPT and reducing risk of nuclear war through consultation, transparency, proper verification and involvement of state which are not a party to NPT. Sixth, better evaluation of risk assessment by the medium of NPT review conference. Seventh, developing frameworks for safety, training and other issues by involving industries, who are involved in the process of developing nuclear power, with UN and other international agencies. Eighth, creating regional agreements to have better access to supervision and management. Ninth, effective monitoring of biological and chemical weapons-related issues. Tenth, encouraging the ban or restrictive use of biological and chemical weapons and changing the norms related to them, effective information sharing among all international bodies and controlling the illegal trade of weapons.

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<sup>19</sup> <https://www.un.org/Depts/unmovic/ExecChair/Blix%20in%20Vienna.htm>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/ctbt/>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/fmct>

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.iaea.org/topics/additional-protocol>

<sup>23</sup> Ibid 6





## **Possible solutions and Points for delegates to consider**

30. The resolution has bridged the gap as non-state actors such as terrorist groups are addressed in it. It focused on the much wider cooperation to secure borders and promote non-proliferation. The important principles and structure for addressing the illegal trade of weapons of mass destruction and related parts have also been covered in this resolution. However, still, the national government through all of their three organs (executives, legislators and judiciary) need to implement the recommended solutions at regional, national and international levels.
31. We need to create a global regime for the effective implementations of the laws related to non-proliferation issues. This can only be achieved by fulfilling the obligations towards the international treaties followed by the peaceful settlement of disputes and a mandate of a follow-up mechanism.
32. The resolution is recommended to be implemented to all the states where such situation prevails without any exceptions. The effective monitoring and formation of the mandate of the committee are required which would focus on more fundamental and cooperative solutions to non-proliferation.
33. The resolution 1540, CWC, NPT and all other resolutions and international instruments are required to be pro-active. A cooperative and complementing attitude toward the Security Council, relevant international organizations, and all other key organization such as NGOs etc. need to effectively implement the laws and rules for non-proliferation and disarmament. All these legal instruments have the same objective of creating and maintaining peace which can only be achieved with the help of all regional, national and international organizations with the better reinforcement.

## **Questions to ponder when researching and negotiating:**

- Which actions should be specifically adopted to prevent any acts of mass destruction by non-state actors?
- Are there any further recommendations under Chapter VII of the UN charter that the Security Council can make to bind member states to take effective measures to control the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction?
- Which steps should be adopted to bring the obligations to member states towards individuals to justice?



## Additional Resources

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