



# WELMUN'23

## *Background Guide*

### **Chairperson**

Pranay Singh Dhaka

### **Secretary-General**

Arush Kaintura

### **Director-General**

Trayambak Pathak

### **Under-Secretary-General**

Keshav Agarwal

Disarmament & International  
Security Committee



## Table of Contents

S. No.	Subject
1.	Letter from the Executive Board
2.	Accepted Sources
3.	Background Terms
4.	Introduction to the Committee
5.	Introduction to the Agenda
6.	Background of the Agenda
7.	Nuclear Treaties
8.	Non-Proliferation Treaty
9.	Prevention and Recovery
10.	Conclusion
11.	QARMAS and Position Paper Policy
12.	Bibliography

## **Letter From The Executive Board**

Dear Delegates,

It gives us great pleasure to welcome you all to the ninth edition of Welham Boys' Model United Nations, 2023. The Disarmament and International Security Committee is a simulation of the United Nations General Assembly — First Committee. We, the Executive Board, promise you a prominent and productive time here at WELMUN.

This background guide provides you with an overview of the agenda and gives you an idea of where your research should start. The Executive Board discourages the use of only this guide for the preparation of the conference. The information provided here is only to help you shape your stance. The agenda for the debate this year would revolve around the **Regulation of Nuclear Policies and the Countries monitored by the NPT**.

With nuclear resources being one of the most important and prominent resources of our time, there needs to be some limit to its limitless potential. Governments all over the world are figuring out ways to utilise said resources in different fields such as power production, medicine as well as weaponry. As delegates representing nations, you will be expected to be well-versed with the foreign policies and initiatives taken by your government regarding the implementation and usage of these resources.

The Executive Board anticipates well-researched arguments and discussions from the delegates. We also encourage the delegates to have an intricate knowledge of the issue raised. Documentation and lobbying would play a major role in the committee. A solutions-oriented approach is always appreciated at the conference. Delegates must engage in critical thinking and keep in mind real-life problems with respect to the scenario too. We encourage first-time MUNers to engage as much as possible, but also to have a great learning experience from the conference. We will make sure that you have a great time and also get a platform to keep your stance and voice.

We will now leave you all with our warm regards and best wishes. We hope that you take something from this two-day conference and understand the privilege of having a voice that is heard. Please feel free to contact the executive board in case of any queries.

Best Wishes & Warm Regards,  
The Executive Board, DISEC

[chair.disecc@welhamboys.org](mailto:chair.disecc@welhamboys.org)

---

**Pranay Singh Dhaka**  
(Chairperson)

**Bimarsh Jha**  
(Vice Chair)

**Sabhya Malik**  
(Director)

---

**Sidhsavir Batra**  
(Joint-Director)

**Samarth Agrawal**  
(Rapporteur)

**Yash Jalan**  
(Rapporteur)

## Accepted Sources

Delegates are expected to make use of **sources accredited by The United Nations only**

- a) **REUTERS** - Statements that are in contradiction to the ones made by the delegate. However, quotes and/or statements from individuals shall not be accepted as they do not express the views of the government but rather an individual who holds office.
  
- b) **State-operated news agencies** - Reports from these agencies can be used to support or question the credibility of the nation that owns them. However, since they are state-operated, other countries can deny their reports if they are not substantial.
  
- c) **UN Reports** - Reports published by the UN that are relevant to the agenda are considered credible.
  
- d) **CIA World Factbook:** The World Factbook is an authorised resource prepared by the Central Intelligence Agency which provides information about demographics, geography, communications, government, economy, etc of different countries around the globe. All the facts taken from here would be taken credible by the committee.

We would not encourage the delegates not to use sources like Wikipedia (<http://www.wikipedia.org/>), Amnesty International (<http://www.amnesty.org/>), or newspapers like The Guardian (<http://www.guardian.co.uk/>) Times of India (<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/>) since these aren't accepted in the Council.

## Background Terms

With the agenda being such a vast one, here are explanations of some terms that you will find in the background guide.

**NPT** - The NPT is a landmark 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.

**Denuclearization** - The process leading to complete disarmament.

**CTBT** - The nuclear treaty which bans explosions for any purpose.

**Nuclear reactors** - Devices used to control nuclear fission to produce nuclear Energy.

**Nuclear Meltdowns** - Severe nuclear reactor accident that happens due to overheating.

**Noncompliance** - Failing to act in accordance with nuclear treaties.

**IAEA (International Atomic Energy Association)** - An international body that promotes the peaceful use of nuclear energy and aims to reduce its prowess in the field of weaponry.

## Introduction to the Committee

**DISEC** (Disarmament and International Security) is the first committee of the **UNGA** (United Nations General Assembly) and this particular committee deals with issues and problems relating to international security, global challenges, disarmament, and threats to peace at the international level. The committee has the power to act on every international security matter within the limits of the **UN Charter** as well as to maintain the general principles of cooperation in matters of international peace and security. The Committee works in close cooperation with the United Nations Disarmament Commission and the Geneva-based Conference on Disarmament. DISEC is the only main committee of the UNGA entitled and permitted to verbatim records.

It is considered one of the most important wings of the UN and not just the General Assembly as international security is a concerning issue that involves more than just the question of security and military but also factors such as weaponry and international laws. DISEC has had many notable achievements in the past such as getting treaties like the **NPT** (Non-Proliferation Treaty) and **CTBT** (Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty) adopted by countries while also overtaking major security issues all over the world. The General Assembly's role as one of the organs of the United Nations would be incomplete without DISEC supporting the other committees.

The First Committee sessions are structured into three distinctive stages:

- I. General debate
- II. Thematic discussions
- III. Action on drafts



## **Introduction to the Agenda**

The world as a whole is seeing the rise of interest in nuclear fission and its countless possibilities, but this also means accepting its risks as they are and agreeing to the fact that this research could and inevitably will be utilised in the field of modern weaponry. Countless treaties have been established by international bodies but countries are signing out on the charges of noncompliance. Seeing the many factors that affect and can change the scenario, it's important to understand and debate on the existing nuclear policies and treaties, especially the NPT, since it bans the use of nuclear resources for weaponry and instead wants them to be treated as power sources for clean energy. The usage of nuclear resources has seen exponential growth in recent times and has caused questions national and international from citizens and bodies alike. The agenda for DISEC WELMUN'23 not only provides insight into this issue but also allows delegates to come together for a common problem and fight it from different perspectives. As a delegate, you must come up with an equitable solution that is acceptable to various blocs and keeps insight into crucial issues.

### **Links for research**

[Nuclear Arms Control Treaties](#)

[UN Charter | United Nations](#) - Chapter IV: The General Assembly (Articles 9 - 22)

[NTI | Building a Safer World](#)

## **Background of the Agenda**

While radioactive substances and elements such as uranium might have existed from way back, their potential as atomic energy was discovered only in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Nobody realised its destructive properties and what seemed like a harmless discovery led to the deaths of researchers such as Marie and Pierre Curie and innocent citizens alike.



Among the many disasters that have occurred due to nuclear resources, the most prominent ones are :

**Chernobyl Disaster** - Regarded as the most catastrophic nuclear accident that occurred on April 26, 1986, the Chernobyl disaster took place at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant located in Ukraine. Design flaws and operator errors during a late-night test gave way to a steam explosion and fires that led to the release of massive amounts of radioactive material into the atmosphere. This disaster led to an evacuation of nearby towns and villages and an estimated 4000-9000 people died while a large number of people suffered from long-term health consequences. It remains the most disastrous nuclear power plant accident in history, with long-lasting environmental, health, and societal consequences.

**Kyshtym Disaster** - The Mayak nuclear fuel reprocessing plant in the Soviet Union (present-day Russia) experienced the first-ever nuclear disaster on September 29, 1957, now known as the Kyshtym Disaster. There was a chemical explosion in a storage tank which contaminated over 20,000 square kilometres and gave way to acute radiation sickness and other long-term health effects to nearby residents. Initially covered up by the Soviet government, the disaster had significant impacts on nuclear safety standards and regulations. It serves as a stark reminder of the dangers of nuclear technology and the importance of proper safety measures in handling nuclear materials.

**Fukushima Disaster** - The Fukushima disaster was a nuclear accident that occurred on March 11, 2011, in Fukushima Prefecture, Japan. It was triggered by a massive earthquake and subsequent tsunami that damaged the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, causing multiple meltdowns, explosions, and releases of radioactive materials. It was the most severe nuclear accident since the Chernobyl disaster in 1986. The disaster led to the evacuation of tens of thousands of people, caused widespread contamination of the environment, and raised concerns about the safety of nuclear power generation. The cleanup and recovery efforts are ongoing, and the long-term health and environmental impacts of the disaster are still being assessed.



**Three Mile Island Incident** - The first nuclear meltdown occurred on March 28, 1979, at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant in Pennsylvania, United States. The accident began due to a mechanical failure in the plant's cooling system, resulting in a partial meltdown in the Unit 2 reactor. The accident was caused by a combination of equipment malfunctions, operator errors, and design flaws that resulted in a loss of coolant and the release of radioactive gases into the atmosphere. Although no fatalities or injuries occurred due to the accident, it caused widespread public concern and raised questions about nuclear power safety. The Three Mile Island disaster resulted in new safety regulations, improved emergency preparedness and response plans, and greater transparency and public involvement in nuclear regulatory decisions.

**Goiânia Accident** - The Goiânia accident was a radioactive contamination incident that occurred in Goiânia, Brazil, in September 1987. It was caused by the unauthorized removal of a radioactive source from a disused medical device, which resulted in the release of highly radioactive cesium-137. The contaminated source was handled by numerous individuals, resulting in widespread contamination of people, homes, and the environment. Four people died as a direct result of the exposure, and many others suffered from acute and chronic health effects. The incident led to significant environmental contamination, costly cleanup efforts, and increased awareness of the importance of proper handling and disposal of radioactive materials. It highlighted the importance of strict regulations, training, and proper control of radioactive sources to prevent similar accidents in the future.

With numerous nuclear plants and reactors popping up around the globe and disasters and incidents becoming more and more commonplace, it became very evident to the people as well as international bodies such as the UN that there should be limits and safety measures which are better than the ones that are already in place. These thoughts gave birth to nuclear policies and these policies and regulations have been in place ever since with new ones coming into existence. The wing of the UN responsible for these treaties and similar problems with nuclear resources has been DISEC, and it has been doing everything within its power to maintain security and peace, including the adoption of the NPT (Non-Proliferation Treaty) in 1968 and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) in 1996. But with rapid advancement once again after the pandemic as well as war situations

affecting the geopolitics in the real world, the question regarding the safety of nuclear resources rises again and begs to be addressed by countries all over.

The agenda this year in WELMUN not only makes the delegates know the history of the situation but also makes them aware of the future. The delegates should adopt a thought process that focuses not only on the facts but also on the situations and the problems that currently exist.

## **Nuclear Treaties**

To deal with and prevent further accidents and mishaps like the ones that affected all of humanity, nuclear treaties, and policies were adopted and signed by countries all over the world in hopes of getting closer to international security and world peace. Nuclear policies differ from country to country and depend on the levels of consumption and levels of resources that are available locally in the nation.

Nuclear treaties, on the other hand, aren't limited to one country and instead are international treaties and accords regarding the usage and safety of nuclear resources. DISEC is the body that adopts and implements said treaties and puts them into action.

### **Partial Test Ban Treaty (PTBT) :**

The Partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (PTBT) is an international treaty that was signed on August 5, 1963. The treaty prohibits nuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere, underwater, and in space, but allows for testing to continue underground. The PTBT was negotiated in response to growing concerns about the health and environmental effects of nuclear testing. Above-ground nuclear tests, in particular, were shown to produce significant amounts of radioactive fallout, which posed a threat to human health and the environment. The treaty sought to limit these risks by banning all nuclear tests in the atmosphere, underwater, and in space. The PTBT was signed by the United States, the Soviet Union, and the United Kingdom, and has since been signed by over 100 other countries. The treaty represented a major step towards arms control and disarmament and paved the way for other agreements, such as the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty,

which aims to ban all nuclear weapon tests, including those conducted underground. The PTBT did little to stop the nuclear arms race between superpowers but by making nuclear weapons tests substantially more costly, it helped to slow down proliferation. Despite its limitations, the PTBT has helped to reduce the number and intensity of nuclear weapon tests around the world. It has also contributed to a shift towards more cooperative and peaceful international relations, as countries work together to limit the risks and dangers associated with nuclear weapons.

### **Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty :**

The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) forbids the testing of nuclear weapons and all other nuclear explosions for both military as well as peaceful purposes in any environment. It was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 September 1996 but has yet not entered into force, as the eight specific nuclear nations haven't yet ratified the treaty. The Treaty also established a CTBT Organization (CTBTO), located in Vienna, to ensure the implementation of its provisions. The CTBT is an essential component of the worldwide nuclear arms control and disarmament framework and has established a strong, largely uncontested global norm against nuclear testing for its member nations.

### **Convention on Nuclear Safety:**

The International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) Convention on Nuclear Safety is a treaty that establishes safety regulations for nuclear power plants in states that have ratified it. The treaty was approved at an IAEA diplomatic conference in Vienna, Austria on June 17, 1994. According to the treaty, all nuclear energy-related civil facilities must adhere to a set of safety regulations and requirements. Site selection, design and construction, operation and safety assurance, and emergency readiness are a few of these. The legislative, regulatory, and administrative measures, as well as other actions required for carrying out the convention's commitments, shall be implemented by signatories within the framework of their national laws. According to the convention, reviewing meetings must be also convened by the signatories to go through reports on the actions they have done to carry out the convention's requirements.

### **Seabed Arms Control Treaty:**

The Seabed Arms Control Treaty, also known as the Seabed Treaty, is an international treaty that was signed in Washington D.C. on February 11, 1971. The treaty aims to regulate the exploration and use of the seabed and ocean floor beyond national jurisdiction to prevent an arms race in this area. Under the treaty, countries are prohibited from placing nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction on the seabed and ocean floor, as well as from conducting nuclear explosions or testing of any kind in this area. In addition, the treaty established the International Seabed Authority (ISA), which is responsible for managing the resources of the international seabed and ensuring that exploration and exploitation of these resources are conducted in an environmentally responsible manner. The Seabed Treaty was signed by the United States, the Soviet Union, and several other countries, but it was not ratified by all parties. In particular, the United States did not ratify the treaty due to concerns that it could limit its ability to defend its interests and those of its allies. Despite its limitations, the Seabed Treaty represents an important step towards the peaceful use and management of the seabed and ocean floor. It has been followed by other international agreements, such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which further define the rights and responsibilities of countries in this area.

### **Outer Space Treaty:**

The Outer Space Treaty, a treaty on rules regulating the operations of states in Outer Space Exploration and Utilisation, including the Moon and other Celestial Bodies which had entered into force in 1967. The treaty added new stipulations to the framework of the Declaration of Legal Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, which had been adopted by the General Assembly in 1963. The Treaty states that space exploration and usage must be done for the good of all nations, in their best interests. The parties shall agree not to launch any objects bearing nuclear weapons or any other types of weapons of mass destruction into the Earth's Orbit nor to not to install such weapons on celestial bodies or otherwise station them in outer space. The Moon and other celestial bodies must only be used for peaceful purposes, and the setting up of military bases, installations, and fortifications, testing any weapons, and conducting military operations on celestial bodies are all prohibited. The governments are

required to make the UN Secretary-General, the public, and the global scientific community aware of any activities covered by the Treaty.

### **Anti Ballistic Missile Treaty:**

During the Cold War, the United States and the Soviet Union signed the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty in 1972. The ABM Treaty is an interim agreement on a few rules regulating the use of offensive and defensive strategic weapons. The Parties agreed to restrict ABM systems and not use them for regional or national defence unless specifically permitted by the Treaty. Quantitative and qualitative restrictions were brought into effect on the ABM systems that could be potentially deployed as provided by the treaty. This prevented the ability of each state's retaliation missile forces to penetrate the defences of the other state and also to stop the weapons race from intensifying. However, the ABM Treaty was no longer in effect in 2002 after the US withdrew from it following US President George W. Bush's formal declaration of intent to abrogate the agreement in 2001 clarifying by citing the requirement for a missile defence system to fight the emerging threats.

### **Biological Weapons Convention:**

The creation, production, acquisition, transfer, stockpiling, and use of biological and toxin weapons are all expressly prohibited by the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC). It was the groundbreaking international agreement that forbade the use of a whole class of WMD. The pact, which is officially known as "The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological), and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction," was negotiated in Geneva, Switzerland, at the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament. BWC States Parties have strived to ensure that the Convention remains relevant and effective, despite the changes in science and technology, politics, and security since it entered into force.

### **Non-Proliferation Treaty:**

The Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) restricts non-nuclear-weapon states from obtaining nuclear weapons, while also prohibiting nuclear-weapon states from assisting others in acquiring such weapons. Furthermore, it emphasises the pursuit of complete disarmament. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA),

established as the successor to the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission, is responsible for verifying compliance with the treaty. The United Nations Security Council is entrusted with enforcing compliance with the treaty's provisions. The NPT aims to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to foster the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and to further the goal of disarmament. The Treaty establishes a safeguards system under the responsibility of the IAEA, which also plays a central role under the Treaty.

## **Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)**

Seen as the landmark treaty on nuclear weapons, the Non-Proliferation Treaty has been acting as the face of nuclear disarmament since it was adopted back in 1970. The treaty is the only binding contract signed by 191 countries over the years which is working towards nuclear disarmament and limiting usage of nuclear resources. The NPT is a multilateral treaty with three components aimed at controlling the spread of nuclear weapons:

1. Non-proliferation,
2. Disarmament,
3. Peaceful use of Nuclear energy.

These components comprise a "grand bargain" between the five nuclear weapons powers and the non-nuclear-weapons states.

1. States that do not have nuclear weapons will not obtain them.
2. Nuclear-weapons states will pursue disarmament.
3. Under certain conditions, any state can obtain nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

Its importance and influence are what make it one of the major topics for deliberation in this session. Delegates are expected to be aware of the history as well as the impacts of the treaty while keeping its potential and effectiveness in the future in mind.

## **Links for further research**

<https://www.armscontrol.org/treaties>

<https://world-nuclear.org/>

<https://carnegieendowment.org/programs/npp/>

## **Prevention and Recovery**

With nuclear threats being considered one of the reasons which could lead the world to extinction, some measures need to be taken for prevention as well as recovery. Prevention measures include treaties as well as non-proliferation while recovery includes providing healthcare as well as taking care of refugees who have been affected by nuclear meltdowns or the usage of nuclear weaponry.

Prevention also includes the maintenance of nuclear reactors as well as proper checks on nuclear resources. It also involves strengthening international safeguards and ensuring stern safety measures at nuclear facilities. Recovery on the other hand is to do with the aftermath of the situation and deal with issues on different levels such as global, environmental, social, and economic. This includes being ready with a set of emergency response protocols especially in areas prone to nuclear disasters as well as special measures for environmental recovery and its rehabilitation to be implemented immediately keeping in mind the current global situation where issues like global warming are arising.

Another very important aspect of prevention is public education about the effects of nuclear disasters and bombings with a special emphasis on the repercussions caused by nuclear radiation. The public must be aware of the do's and don't during these uncertain times. This needs to be encouraged among the economically weaker sections of societies who don't have access to media sources for information.

Delegates are expected and motivated to be clear with a plan of action for preventing and recovering from a nuclear disaster.



## **Conclusion**

Nuclear proliferation is an issue that concerns the whole globe and can be seen as either a threat or a blessing. Nuclear resources have infinite potential and delegates need to understand and be ready to deliberate on the issue from both perspectives. The delegates would be required to ponder upon the numerous arms control treaties and organisations formed to counter-proliferation while keeping their country's stance in mind. With the new technological advancements, new and even more demanding challenges are arising around the globe which need to be acknowledged. Addressing nuclear proliferation which is a diverse subject in hand, calls for the delegates to take note of the other countless smaller factors like questions to international cooperation, regional tensions, diligence towards disarmament, etc.

Being the delegates of DISEC, the delegates must come up with innovative and workable solutions to difficulties posed by nuclear proliferation, disarmament, and the peaceful use of nuclear energy. We hope that our background guide has provided an overview of the agenda at hand and encourages the delegates to think critically and collaborate to tackle these complex issues highlighted insightfully.

The Executive Board hopes that the delegates will find the Background Guide helpful and keep in mind that this document is not the only source that should be consulted to prepare for the session. We wish you the best and look forward to seeing you for WELMUN 23.

## **QARMA( Questions A Resolution Must Answer)**

- The importance of nuclear policies for every individual country.
- Highlight the existence and importance of nuclear treaties formed by international bodies such as the UN.
- Noncompliance and its dangers for society at large.
- How some treaties need to be amended with time and changed to fit the needs, demands, and resources of other growing countries.
- The usage of nuclear and atomic energy as a fuel to power countries.
- Are nuclear resources limited to weapons and fuels or are there more applications to them that are hidden behind the spotlight.

## **Position Paper Policy**

A position paper is a brief overview of a country's stance on the topics being discussed by a particular committee. It should include a description of the position your country holds on the issues on the agenda, relevant actions that your country has taken, and potential solutions that your country would support. The submission dates will be communicated soon and the position papers will be manually reviewed. Your position papers would emphasise on the agenda: **Regulation of Nuclear Policies and the Countries monitored by the Non-Proliferation Treaty** and should include the following details:

- The delegate's preliminary understanding of the topic and what it entails.
- Allocation of the delegate and your stance on this agenda.
- Your proposed plan of action and effective solutions.

They should be in a standard font (e.g. **Playfair Display/Times New Roman**) with **12-point font size** and **1- inch document margin**.

The submission date for the position paper is the **30th of July, 2023**.

\*\*

## **Bibliography**

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

<https://www.nti.org/education-center/treaties-and-regimes/>

<https://armscontrolcenter.org/fact-sheet-nuclear-non-proliferation-treaty-npt/>

<https://carnegieendowment.org/programs/npp/>

<https://world-nuclear.org/>

<https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/test-ban-treaty-at-a-glance>

<https://www.armscontrol.org/treaties>

<https://www.atomicarchive.com/resources/treaties/index.html>

<https://www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/test-ban-treaty>

<https://www.nti.org/about/programs-projects/program/global-nuclear-policy-program-gnpp/>

<https://www.bmuv.de/en/topics/nuclear-safety-radiological-protection/nucle>

[ar-safety/international-policies/international-agreements/reporting-to-cns](#)

\*\*\*