



DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL  
SECURITY COMMITTEE

STUDY  
GUIDE

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## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

ESTEEMED DELEGATES,

HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR SELECTION TO DISEC! THE DELIBERATION PRECARIOUSLY PLACED IN OUR HANDS FOR THESE TWO DAYS IS EXAMINING HOW BORDER CONFLICTS HAVE SHAPED NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION AND ACCELERATED THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE.

TODAY, BORDER CONFLICTS, FROM FROZEN MOUNTAINS TO DISPUTED COASTLINES, ACT AS SPARKS IN A ROOM FILLED WITH GUNPOWDER. NATIONS, DRIVEN BY INSECURITY, BEGIN TO SEE NUCLEAR CAPABILITY NOT AS A LAST RESORT, BUT AS AN INSURANCE POLICY. ONE STATE ARMS ITSELF; THE OTHER FOLLOWS. WHAT BEGINS AS DEFENCE MUTATES INTO AN ARMS RACE: SILENT, RAPID, AND DANGEROUSLY IRREVERSIBLE.

THINK OF IT AS A GAME OF DOMINOES: ONE TERRITORIAL CONFLICT TIPS THE FIRST PIECE, BUT WHAT FOLLOWS IS A CHAIN REACTION THAT DOES NOT STOP AT BORDERS. IT SPREADS ACROSS REGIONS, ALLIANCES, AND CONTINENTS, UNTIL THE ENTIRE SYSTEM STANDS ON THE BRINK OF COLLAPSE. OR PERHAPS MORE FITTINGLY, THIS IS NOT A GAME AT ALL, IT IS A CLOCK. AND WITH EVERY UNRESOLVED BORDER DISPUTE, EVERY FAILED NEGOTIATION AND EVERY SHOW OF MILITARY MIGHT, WE INCH CLOSER TO MIDNIGHT.

THE QUESTION BEFORE THIS COMMITTEE IS STARK:

WILL NUCLEAR WEAPONS REMAIN A DETERRENT LOCKED IN SILENCE, OR WILL THEY BECOME THE FINAL ARGUMENT IN A WORLD THAT HAS RUN OUT OF DIALOGUE? AS DELEGATES, THE RESOLUTIONS YOU DRAFT, THE ALLIANCES YOU FORGE, AND THE DIPLOMACY YOU PRACTICE WILL DETERMINE WHETHER BORDER CONFLICTS CONTINUE TO FUEL PROLIFERATION, OR WHETHER THIS CYCLE CAN FINALLY BE BROKEN.

SO, THE QUESTION FOR YOU IS, CAN YOU RISE TO FORGE CONSENSUS? OR WILL THE WORLD SEE A BRIGHT WHITE FLASH IN ITS FINAL HOURS?

WELCOME TO DISEC!

WARMEST REGARDS,

CHAIRPERSON- RANIT SENTHILNATHAN

CHAIRPERSON- AARAV SINGH

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON- ADVIT BISHNOI

MODERATOR- RUTVVI RAJ

## MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE

THE DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE (DISEC), OFFICIALLY KNOWN AS THE FIRST COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1945 ALONGSIDE THE FOUNDING OF THE UN AND THE ADOPTION OF THE UN CHARTER.

THE FIRST COMMITTEE DEALS WITH DISARMAMENT, GLOBAL CHALLENGES AND THREATS TO PEACE THAT AFFECT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND SEEKS OUT SOLUTIONS TO THE CHALLENGES IN THE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY REGIME.

DISEC'S MANDATE:

IT CONSIDERS ALL DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY MATTERS WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE CHARTER OR RELATING TO THE POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF ANY OTHER ORGAN OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF COOPERATION IN THE MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY, AS WELL AS PRINCIPLES GOVERNING DISARMAMENT AND THE REGULATION OF ARMAMENTS;

PROMOTION OF COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS AND MEASURES AIMED AT STRENGTHENING STABILITY THROUGH LOWER LEVELS OF ARMAMENTS.

THE COMMITTEE SHALL, PERFORM THE FOLLOWING FUNCTIONS:

- DELIBERATE ON THREATS TO GLOBAL SECURITY, INCLUDING TERRORISM, PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION, CYBER THREATS, AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES IN WARFARE;
- RECOMMEND MEASURES FOR DISARMAMENT AND ARMS CONTROL, INCLUDING FRAMEWORKS, TREATIES, AND CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MECHANISMS;
- PROMOTE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN PEACEFUL USES OF TECHNOLOGY, ENSURING THAT SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS ARE NOT DIVERTED TOWARD MILITARY ESCALATION;
- SUPPORT EFFORTS TOWARD NON-PROLIFERATION AND ARMS LIMITATION, PARTICULARLY IN RELATION TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND OTHER WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION;
- WORK IN COORDINATION WITH OTHER UN BODIES, INCLUDING THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL AND RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES, TO STRENGTHEN GLOBAL SECURITY ARCHITECTURE;
- ENCOURAGE DIALOGUE AMONG MEMBER STATES TO RESOLVE SECURITY CONCERNS THROUGH DIPLOMATIC AND MULTILATERAL APPROACHES;
- ADDRESS REGIONAL AND GLOBAL SECURITY ISSUES, INCLUDING BORDER TENSIONS, MILITARY ALLIANCES, AND EMERGING THREATS THAT MAY IMPACT INTERNATIONAL STABILITY.

THE COMMITTEE WORKS IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS DISARMAMENT COMMISSION AND THE GENEVA-BASED CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT.

## INTRODUCTION TO THE AGENDA

AGENDA: EXAMINING THE ROLE OF GLOBAL BORDER CONFLICTS IN ACCELERATING NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION AND DEVISING MEASURES TO MITIGATE THEIR IMPACT ON INTERNATIONAL SECURITY.

THE AGENDA ADDRESSES THE GROWING CONCERN ON THE ROLE OF GLOBAL CONFLICTS IN ACCELERATING THE SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND DEVISING MEASURES TO ALLEVIATE RISKS TO INTERNATIONAL STABILITY. IN THE PAST FEW DECADES RISE IN GEOPOLITICAL TENSIONS AND TERRITORIAL DISPUTES HAVE LED STATES TO ENHANCE THEIR NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES.

KEY ISSUES INCLUDE POLITICAL INSTABILITY IN DEVELOPING REGIONS AND A LACK OF TRUST BETWEEN STATES, BOTH OF WHICH CAN DRIVE THE PURSUIT AND SPREAD OF NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES. THE KEY AIM OF THIS COMMITTEE IS TO UNDERSTAND THESE ~~EXISTING~~ MEASURES TO REDUCE THESE RISKS THROUGH INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, ARMS CONTROL, AND NON-PROLIFERATION EFFORT AND TO DELIBERATE ON THE MEASURES TO MITIGATE THE RESULTING THREATS POSED DUE TO THESE CONFLICTS.

BEFORE WE MOVE INTO THE TECHNICALITIES OF THE AGENDA AND THE NEXUS BETWEEN BORDER CONFLICTS AND NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION, WE MUST FIRST UNDERSTAND THE KEY TERMS.

### 1. GLOBAL BORDER CONFLICTS:

A GLOBAL BORDER CONFLICT REFERS TO A DISPUTE BETWEEN TWO OR MORE COUNTRIES OVER THE OWNERSHIP, CONTROL, OR PRECISE DEMARCATION OF THEIR TERRITORIAL BOUNDARIES- WHETHER ON LAND, OR AT SEA. THESE CONFLICTS ARISE WHEN BORDERS ARE UNCLEAR, HISTORICALLY CONTESTED, OR CLAIMED BY MULTIPLE STATES. THIS “DISPUTED ZONE” CAN BECOME A POINT OF TENSION, ESPECIALLY IF IT HOLDS STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE, NATURAL RESOURCES, OR CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE. BORDER DISPUTES BETWEEN NATIONS CAN INVOLVE ALLIES AND ESCALATE INTO BROADER REGIONAL OR GLOBAL TENSIONS.

WHILE THE UNITED NATIONS HAS LONG SOUGHT TO ELIMINATE NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND LIMIT THEIR SPREAD, ONGOING GLOBAL BORDER CONFLICTS CONTINUE TO CREATE CONDITIONS THAT DRIVE THEIR DEVELOPMENT AND PROLIFERATION.

## 2. NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION:

IT IS THE SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, ITS TECHNOLOGY OR FISSILE MATERIAL TO COUNTRIES THAT DO NOT ALREADY POSSESS THEM. IT IS A SIGNIFICANT CONCERN FOR INTERNATIONAL SECURITY DUE TO THE POTENTIAL DEVASTATION THAT NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAN CAUSE. GLOBAL BORDER CONFLICTS INCREASE RISKS OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION.

## 3. NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT):

THE NPT IS A LANDMARK INTERNATIONAL TREATY WHOSE OBJECTIVE IS TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND WEAPON TECHNOLOGY, TO PROMOTE COOPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY AND TO FURTHER THE GOAL OF ACHIEVING NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT AND GENERAL COMPLETE DISARMAMENT.

## 4. NUCLEAR DETERRENCE:

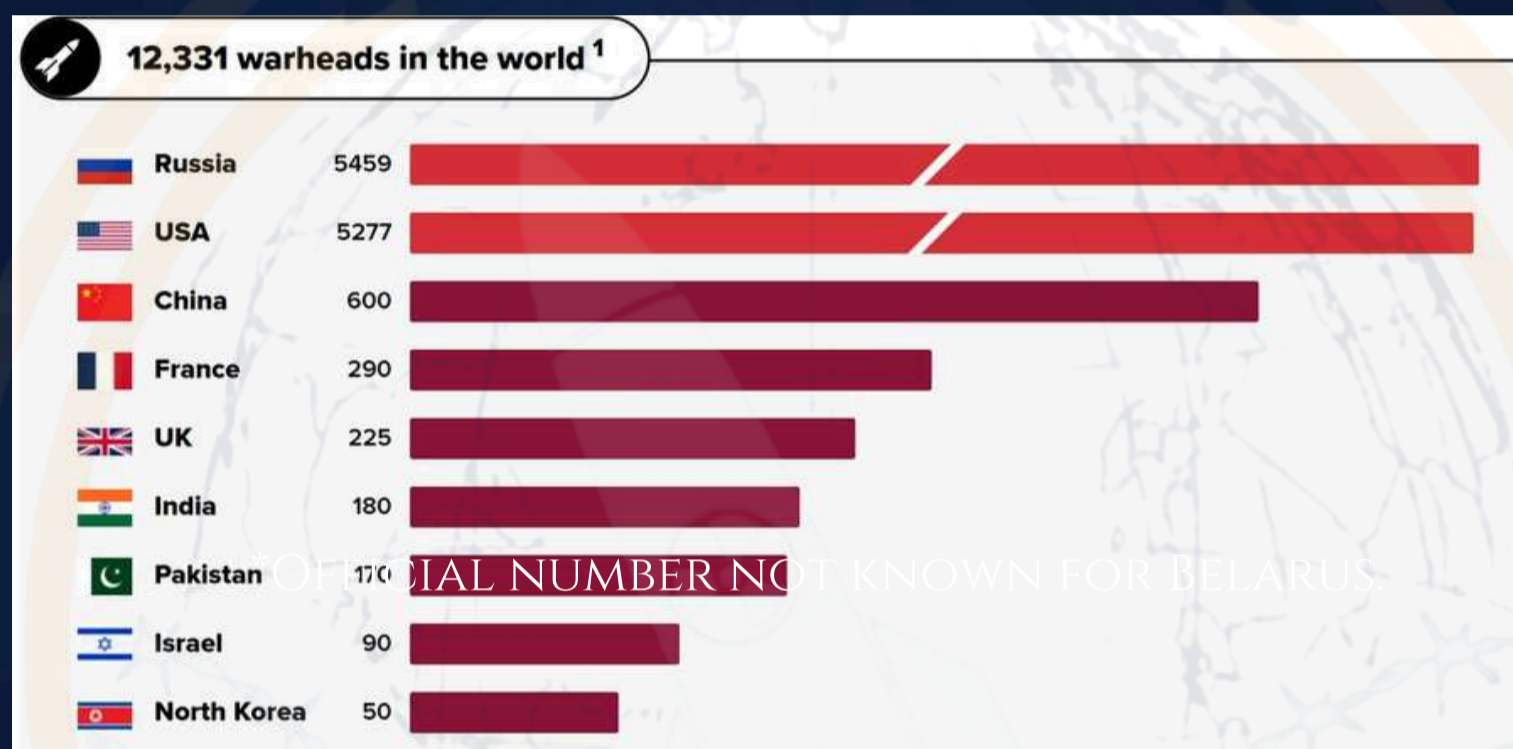
NUCLEAR DETERRENCE IS A STRATEGY WHERE A COUNTRY PREVENTS ATTACKS BY THREATENING NUCLEAR RETALIATION. IF BOTH SIDES KNOW A WAR WOULD CAUSE MASSIVE DESTRUCTION, THEY AVOID STARTING ONE.

## 5. NUCLEAR ARMS RACE:

A NUCLEAR ARMS RACE IS A SITUATION IN WHICH TWO OR MORE COUNTRIES RAPIDLY BUILD UP THEIR NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN RESPONSE TO EACH OTHER, LEADING TO INCREASING COMPETITION AND INSECURITY.

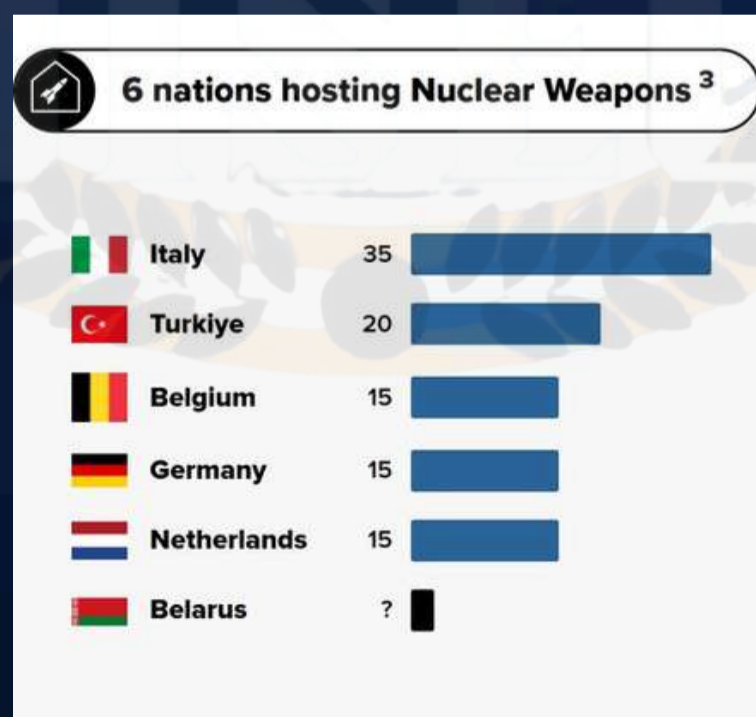
## 6. NUCLEAR COUNTRIES:

COUNTRIES THAT POSSESS NUCLEAR WEAPONS. CURRENTLY NINE COUNTRIES ARE KNOWN TO POSSESS NUCLEAR WEAPONS. TOGETHER THEY HOLD 13,400 NUCLEAR WARHEADS, WITH RUSSIA AND USA OWNING NEARLY 90% OF THE GLOBAL STOCKPILE.



## 7. HOST COUNTRIES:

COUNTRIES THAT THEMSELVES DO NOT OWN NUCLEAR WEAPONS, BUT ALLOW SUCH WEAPONS TO BE DEPLOYED ON THEIR TERRITORY. THERE ARE SIX SUCH NATIONS IN THE WORLD TODAY.



\*OFFICIAL NUMBER NOT KNOWN FOR BELARUS.

## NEXUS BETWEEN BORDER CONFLICTS AND NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

HOW DO BORDER CONFLICTS ACCELERATE NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION AND THE PRODUCTION OF FISSILE MATERIALS?

WE FIRST NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE TWO PERSPECTIVES COUNTRIES HAVE ON THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONRY.

PERSPECTIVE A:

SOME COUNTRIES ARGUE THAT SINCE NUCLEAR WEAPONS ARE THE MOST DANGEROUS WEAPONS ON EARTH, THE DANGERS FROM SUCH WEAPONS ARISE FROM THEIR VERY EXISTENCE. ALTHOUGH NUCLEAR WEAPONS HAVE ONLY BEEN USED TWICE IN WARFARE; IN THE BOMBINGS OF HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI IN 1945, ABOUT 13,400 REPORTEDLY REMAIN IN OUR WORLD TODAY AND THERE HAVE BEEN OVER 2,000 NUCLEAR TESTS CONDUCTED TO DATE. THEY BELIEVE DISARMAMENT IS THE BEST PROTECTION AGAINST SUCH DANGERS, BUT ACHIEVING THIS GOAL HAS BEEN A TREMENDOUSLY DIFFICULT CHALLENGE.

PERSPECTIVE B:

OTHER COUNTRIES ARGUE THAT NUCLEAR WEAPONS ARE NEEDED FOR SELF-DEFENCE AND ON THE CONTRARY, PREVENT WARS.

NUCLEAR WEAPONS ARE ARGUED TO HAVE PREVENTED LARGE-SCALE WARS BETWEEN MAJOR POWERS THROUGH THE DOCTRINE OF NUCLEAR DETERRENCE, WHICH STATES THAT THE POTENTIAL FOR MUTUALLY ASSURED DESTRUCTION (MAD) MAKES DIRECT CONFLICT TOO COSTLY. BY HOLDING THE POWER TO INFLICT UNACCEPTABLE DAMAGE, THEY COMPEL NATIONS TO MANAGE DISPUTES DIPLOMATICALLY RATHER THAN THROUGH TOTAL WAR, A DYNAMIC THAT PREVENTED DIRECT NATO-SOVIET CONFLICT DURING THE COLD WAR. CHINA HAS REPEATEDLY STRESSED ITS NUCLEAR PROGRAMME WAS ONLY INTENDED FOR SELF-DEFENCE, INSISTING NATIONS HAD NOTHING TO FEAR AS LONG AS THEY DID NOT THREATEN CHINA WITH ATTACK.

AND THAT IS WHERE THE NEXUS BETWEEN CONFLICTS AND NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION BOUNDARIES IS STATE AS IN AN ADVERSARIAL SOCIETY IS A SILENT TRAGEDY, AND THIS PERCEPTION DRIVES THEM TOWARD THE ACQUISITION OF CAPABILITIES THAT CAN GUARANTEE THEIR SECURITY IN THE MOST ABSOLUTE SENSE. NUCLEAR WEAPONS, IN THIS CONTEXT, EMERGE NOT SIMPLY AS INSTRUMENTS OF WAR BUT AS SYMBOLS OF ULTIMATE ASSURANCE.

THE RELATIONSHIP, THEREFORE, IS NOT ACCIDENTAL BUT DEEPLY STRUCTURAL: BORDER CONFLICTS CREATE INSECURITY, INSECURITY FUELS MILITARIZATION, AND MILITARIZATION WHEN PUSHED TO ITS EXTREME, LEADS TO NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION. ACTIONS TAKEN BY ONE STATE TO ENHANCE ITS OWN SECURITY ARE INTERPRETED AS THREATS BY ANOTHER, TRIGGERING A CYCLE OF ESCALATION. IN THE CONTEXT OF BORDER DISPUTES, THIS DILEMMA IS MAGNIFIED. MILITARY DEPLOYMENTS ALONG CONTESTED FRONTIERS, INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT NEAR BORDERS, AND FREQUENT SKIRMISHES REINFORCE THE PERCEPTION THAT CONFLICT IS NOT ONLY POSSIBLE BUT IMMINENT. AS EACH SIDE SEEKS TO SECURE ITSELF, IT INADVERTENTLY DEEPENS THE INSECURITY OF THE OTHER. OVER TIME, CONVENTIONAL MILITARY CAPABILITIES MAY BE PERCEIVED AS INSUFFICIENT, PARTICULARLY IF THERE IS A SIGNIFICANT IMBALANCE IN POWER.

THE DEBATE INTENSIFIES WHEN COUNTRIES THAT OPPOSE NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION BEGIN CONDEMNING AND PRESSURING NUCLEAR-ARMED STATES TO DISARM, SOMETIMES THROUGH SANCTIONS, ISOLATION, OR THREATS OF INTERVENTION. INSTEAD OF REDUCING NUCLEAR RISKS, THIS OFTEN CREATES THE OPPOSITE EFFECT. STATES UNDER PRESSURE MAY FEEL THEIR SECURITY IS BEING DIRECTLY THREATENED, REINFORCING THEIR BELIEF THAT NUCLEAR WEAPONS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR SURVIVAL. THIS LEADS TO A CYCLE WHERE ATTEMPTS TO ELIMINATE NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN ONE COUNTRY PUSH THAT COUNTRY TO STRENGTHEN OR EXPAND ITS ARSENAL, WHILE OTHER NATIONS OBSERVING THIS DYNAMIC MAY ALSO PURSUE NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES OUT OF FEAR OF SIMILAR TREATMENT.

SOME COUNTRIES MAY PREVENT NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION USING FORCE. WHILE INTENDED AS DETERRENCE, SUCH RHETORIC CAN HEIGHTEN TENSIONS AND VALIDATE THE TARGET STATE'S JUSTIFICATION FOR MAINTAINING OR ADVANCING ITS NUCLEAR PROGRAMME. AS A RESULT, INSTEAD OF REDUCING PROLIFERATION, SUCH CONFRONTATIONS CAN DEEPEN MISTRUST AND ACCELERATE IT FURTHER.

THIS CREATES A SELF-SUSTAINING CYCLE: CONDEMNATION LEADS TO INSECURITY, INSECURITY LEADS TO NUCLEAR BUILDUP, AND NUCLEAR BUILDUP LEADS TO FURTHER CONDEMNATION, MAKING NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION NOT JUST A RESULT OF CONFLICT, BUT A CONTINUOUSLY REINFORCED GLOBAL PATTERN.

## LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS

### TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS (NPT)

ON 1 JULY 1968, THE NUCLEAR NON- PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT) WAS OPENED FOR SIGNATURE AND LATER ENTERED FORCE IN 1970, IT BECAME THE CORNERSTONE TREATY FOR GLOBAL NUCLEAR CONTROL, AIMING TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, PROMOTE DISARMAMENT, AND ENCOURAGE PEACEFUL USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY. COUNTRIES UNDER THE TREATY AGREED TO:

PREVENT THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND RELATED TECHNOLOGIES.

FACILITATE COOPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY UNDER INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS.

ADVANCE NEGOTIATIONS TOWARD NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT AND GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT.

THE NPT IS CURRENTLY SIGNED BY 191 COUNTRIES. INDIA, PAKISTAN, ISRAEL, AND NORTH KOREA ARE NOT PARTIES TO THE NPT, WITH NORTH KOREA HAVING WITHDRAWN FROM THE TREATY IN 2003. THIS IS PARTICULARLY CONCERNING AS ALL FOUR ARE NUCLEAR-ARMED STATES OPERATING OUTSIDE THE FRAMEWORK OF THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS (NPT).



## INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)

ON 29 JULY 1957, THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA) WAS ESTABLISHED AS AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION UNDER THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM, HEADQUARTERED IN VIENNA, AUSTRIA. IT WAS CREATED IN THE CONTEXT OF GROWING GLOBAL CONCERNS OVER THE DUAL USE OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY DURING THE COLD WAR ERA. IT OPERATES, INTER ALIA,

- ENSURE, THROUGH THE APPLICATION OF SAFEGUARDS AND VERIFICATION MECHANISMS, THAT NUCLEAR MATERIALS AND FACILITIES ARE NOT DIVERTED FROM PEACEFUL PURPOSES TOWARD MILITARY OR WEAPONS-RELATED ACTIVITIES.
- ADMINISTER AND IMPLEMENT COMPREHENSIVE SAFEGUARDS REGIMES PURSUANT TO INTERNATIONAL NON-PROLIFERATION OBLIGATIONS AND AGREEMENTS.
- PROMOTE THE SAFE, SECURE, AND EXCLUSIVELY PEACEFUL UTILIZATION OF NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.
  - A) FACILITATE TECHNICAL COOPERATION, CAPACITY-BUILDING, AND SCIENTIFIC ASSISTANCE AMONG MEMBER STATES.
  - B) ADVANCE THE APPLICATION OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGIES IN SECTORS INCLUDING HEALTHCARE, AGRICULTURE, ENERGY PRODUCTION, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY.
- STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS AIMED AT PREVENTING THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND RELATED TECHNOLOGIES.
- ENHANCE GLOBAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELDS OF NUCLEAR SAFETY, NUCLEAR SECURITY, RADIATION PROTECTION, AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE.

## TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

ON 7 JULY 2017, THE TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS (TPNW) WAS ADOPTED BY THE UNGA AND LATER OPENED FOR SIGNATURE. IT IS THE FIRST LEGALLY BINDING INTERNATIONAL TREATY THAT COMPLETELY PROHIBITS NUCLEAR WEAPONS, AIMING FOR THEIR TOTAL ELIMINATION.

THE TREATY BANS THE DEVELOPMENT, TESTING, PRODUCTION, POSSESSION, STOCKPILING, TRANSFER, USE AND THREAT OF USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. IT ALSO REQUIRES STATES TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND TO TAKE STEPS TO ADDRESS ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE CAUSED BY NUCLEAR TESTING OR EXPLOSIONS.

ALTHOUGH NO NUCLEAR- ARMED STATE IS CURRENTLY A PARTY TO IT, THE TPNW REPRESENTS A STRONG GLOBAL EFFORT TO STIGMATIZE NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND PUSH TOWARD A NUCLEAR WEAPON-FREE WORLD.

## THE NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS GROUP

ON 1ST JANUARY 1978, THE NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS GROUP (NSG) WAS FORMED FOLLOWING GROWING CONCERNS AFTER INDIA'S 1974 NUCLEAR TEST, WHICH USED CIVILIAN NUCLEAR IMPORTS FOR WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT. THE NSG IS A GROUP OF NUCLEAR SUPPLIER COUNTRIES THAT WAS CREATED TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS BY CONTROLLING THE EXPORT OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS, EQUIPMENT, AND TECHNOLOGY.

ITS MAIN AIM IS TO ENSURE THAT NUCLEAR TRADE FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES DOES NOT CONTRIBUTE TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT.

MEMBER COUNTRIES AGREE TO FOLLOW STRICT GUIDELINES, MEANING THEY ONLY TRANSFER NUCLEAR RELATED GOODS IF THEY ARE CONFIDENT THESE WILL NOT BE USED FOR MILITARY PURPOSES. IN THIS WAY, THE NSG ACTS AS A KEY GLOBAL MECHANISM FOR STRENGTHENING NUCLEAR NON- PROLIFERATION AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY.

## THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY

ON 10 SEPTEMBER 1996, THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY (CTBT) WAS ADOPTED BY THE UNGA AND OPENED FOR SIGNATURE. IT WAS CREATED TO BAN ALL NUCLEAR TEST EXPLOSIONS IN ORDER TO STOP THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND LIMIT IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING ARSENALS. ALTHOUGH WIDELY SUPPORTED, IT HAS NOT YET FULLY ENTERED INTO FORCE.

## VIOLATIONS AND ESCALATIONS

### INDIA AND THE SMILING BUDDHA TEST (1974)

ON MAY 18, 1974, "SMILING BUDDHA" (MEA DESIGNATION: POKHRAN-I) WAS INDIA'S FIRST SUCCESSFUL NUCLEAR BOMB TEST, CREATING SIGNIFICANT INTERNATIONAL CONTROVERSY BY DEFYING NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION NORMS. TERMED A "PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSION" BY INDIA, THE TEST WAS VIEWED GLOBALLY AS A DISGUISED WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT, LEADING TO SANCTIONS AND THE FORMATION OF THE NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS GROUP (NSG). INDIA'S LEADERS CLAIMED THEY NEEDED THIS EXPLOSIVE CAPABILITY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES, SUCH AS EARTH-MOVING OPERATIONS, MINING, AND CANAL DIGGING. WHILE INDIA AVOIDED DIRECT, CRIPPLING SANCTIONS, IT FACED SEVERE TECHNOLOGY RESTRICTIONS, INTERNATIONAL CONDEMNATION, AND A FREEZE ON NUCLEAR COOPERATION FROM THE U.S. AND CANADA.

DISEC

## NORTH KOREA AND NUCLEAR SANCTIONS (2006-2022)

NORTH KOREA HAS TESTED A NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICE SIX TIMES, BEGINNING IN 2006, AT ITS PUNGGYE-RI NUCLEAR TEST SITE. THE UNDERGROUND TESTS PRODUCED INCREASING ESTIMATED YIELDS. NORTH KOREA LAST CONDUCTED A NUCLEAR TEST ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2017. NORTH KOREA CHARACTERIZED ITS MOST RECENTLY TESTED NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICE AS A HYDROGEN BOMB (OR TWO-STAGE THERMONUCLEAR WARHEAD) FOR DEPLOYMENT ON AN ICBM. IN 2018, NORTH KOREA ANNOUNCED IT HAD ACHIEVED ITS GOALS AND WOULD NO LONGER CONDUCT NUCLEAR TESTS, AND IT DYNAMITED THE ENTRANCES TO TWO TEST TUNNELS. THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA) REPORTED THAT NORTH KOREA BEGAN RESTORING TEST TUNNELS IN MARCH 2022. PYONGYANG WITHDREW FROM THE NPT IN 2003 AND HAS SINCE CONDUCTED THESE NUCLEAR TESTS, PROMOTING MULTIPLE UN SECURITY COUNCIL SANCTIONS. NORTH KOREA HAS LONG INSISTED THAT IT WILL NOT GIVE UP ITS NUCLEAR ARSENAL, DESCRIBING ITS PATH AS “IRREVERSIBLE” AND PLEDGING TO STRENGTHEN ITS CAPABILITIES.

RESOLUTION:

[HTTPS://DOCUMENTS.UN.ORG/DOC/UNDOC/GEN/N06/572/07/PDF/N0657207.PDF](https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n06/572/07/pdf/n0657207.pdf)

## IRAN AND NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION:

UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS CREATE OBLIGATIONS FOR ALL UN MEMBER STATES AND HAVE OBLIGED IRAN TO SUSPEND SEVERAL PROLIFERATION-SENSITIVE NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES ON SEVERAL ACCOUNTS SINCE 2001. IRAN’S CONTINUOUSLY ESCALATING NUCLEAR TRAJECTORY OVER THE LAST SIX YEARS AND ITS NON-COMPLIANCE WITH ITS SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT CONSTITUTE AN URGENT AND PROFOUND NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION CRISIS IN THE REGION. IRAN IS THE ONLY NPT NON-NUCLEAR-WEAPON STATE TO HAVE PRODUCED AND ACCUMULATED HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM (HEU), FOR WHICH THERE IS NO CREDIBLE CIVILIAN JUSTIFICATION. THE IAEA HAS BEEN UNABLE TO VERIFY THE STOCKPILE OF THIS MATERIAL FOR ALMOST ONE YEAR. THE UNITED NATIONS NUCLEAR WATCHDOG HAS SAID IN A REPORT THAT IRAN HAS STORED MOST OF ITS HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM AT AN UNDERGROUND TUNNEL COMPLEX AT ITS ISFAHAN FACILITY, URGING TEHRAN TO ALLOW INSPECTIONS AS IT FACES GROWING PRESSURE FROM THE UNITED STATES OVER ITS NUCLEAR PROGRAMME. THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA) REPORT CONFIRMED EARLIER FINDINGS THAT THE COUNTRY WAS ENRICHING URANIUM UP TO 60 PERCENT, WHICH IS A SHORT STEP AWAY FROM WEAPONS-GRADE PURITY, RAISING CONCERNS OVER THE IAEA’S LACK OF ACCESS TO THE ISFAHAN SITE.

RESOLUTION:

[HTTPS://DOCUMENTS.UN.ORG/DOC/UNDOC/GEN/N06/681/42/PDF/N0668142.PDF](https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n06/681/42/pdf/n0668142.pdf)

## PAKISTAN AND THE CHAGAI NUCLEAR TESTS (1998)

ON MAY 28 AND 30, 1998, PAKISTAN CONDUCTED A SERIES OF NUCLEAR TESTS IN THE CHAGAI HILLS OF BALOCHISTAN, KNOWN AS THE CHAGAI-I AND CHAGAI-II TESTS. THESE TESTS WERE CARRIED OUT IN DIRECT RESPONSE TO INDIA'S POKHRAN-II NUCLEAR TESTS EARLIER THAT MONTH AND OFFICIALLY DECLARED PAKISTAN A NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATE. PAKISTAN ARGUED THAT THE TESTS WERE NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN STRATEGIC BALANCE AND NATIONAL SECURITY IN SOUTH ASIA, ESPECIALLY DUE TO LONG-STANDING TENSIONS AND TERRITORIAL DISPUTES WITH INDIA OVER KASHMIR. THE TESTS TRIGGERED INTERNATIONAL CONCERN REGARDING A POTENTIAL NUCLEAR ARMS RACE IN THE REGION AND LED TO ECONOMIC SANCTIONS FROM COUNTRIES SUCH AS THE UNITED STATES, JAPAN, AND SEVERAL WESTERN NATIONS UNDER THE GLENN AMENDMENT. PAKISTAN FACED RESTRICTIONS ON MILITARY AID, FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION. THE NUCLEARIZATION OF BOTH INDIA AND PAKISTAN SIGNIFICANTLY ESCALATED REGIONAL INSTABILITY, PARTICULARLY DURING THE 1999 KARGIL CONFLICT, WHERE FEARS OF NUCLEAR CONFRONTATION ALARMED THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. PAKISTAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAMME LATER BECAME FURTHER CONTROVERSIAL AFTER REVELATIONS IN 2004 THAT SCIENTIST A. Q. KHAN HAD OPERATED AN INTERNATIONAL PROLIFERATION NETWORK SUPPLYING NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY AND DESIGNS TO STATES INCLUDING IRAN, LIBYA, AND NORTH KOREA, EXPOSING WEAKNESSES IN GLOBAL NON-PROLIFERATION ENFORCEMENT MECHANISMS.

## ISRAEL AND NUCLEAR AMBIGUITY

ISRAEL HAS NEVER OFFICIALLY CONFIRMED OR DENIED POSSESSING NUCLEAR WEAPONS, FOLLOWING A POLICY KNOWN AS "NUCLEAR AMBIGUITY." ALTHOUGH ISRAEL NEVER SIGNED THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, IT IS WIDELY BELIEVED TO HAVE DEVELOPED NUCLEAR WEAPONS THROUGH THE DIMONA NUCLEAR FACILITY DURING THE 1960S. THIS UNDECLARED CAPABILITY HAS CAUSED LONG-TERM TENSIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, WITH CRITICS ARGUING THAT IT WEAKENS GLOBAL NON-PROLIFERATION EFFORTS BY ALLOWING AN UNOFFICIAL NUCLEAR STATE TO AVOID INTERNATIONAL INSPECTIONS AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

### LIBYA AND ITS COVERT NUCLEAR PROGRAMME:

LIBYA SECRETLY PURSUED A NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAMME DURING THE LATE 20TH CENTURY UNDER LEADER MUAMMAR GADDAFI. THE PROGRAMME RELIED HEAVILY ON TECHNOLOGY AND DESIGNS OBTAINED THROUGH THE A.Q. KHAN PROLIFERATION NETWORK. IN 2003, AFTER INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE AND FEARS FOLLOWING THE IRAQ WAR, LIBYA AGREED TO DISMANTLE ITS WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION PROGRAMMES AND ALLOW INTERNATIONAL INSPECTIONS. THE DECISION WAS VIEWED AS A MAJOR SUCCESS FOR GLOBAL NON- PROLIFERATION EFFORTS.

### SYRIA AND THE ALLEGED NUCLEAR REACTOR:

SYRIA WAS ACCUSED OF SECRETLY CONSTRUCTING AN UNDECLARED NUCLEAR REACTOR AT AL-KIBAR WITH SUSPECTED ASSISTANCE FROM NORTH KOREA. ON 6 SEPTEMBER 2007, ISRAELI WARPLANES DESTROYED A BUILDING NEAR THE EUPHRATES RIVER IN NORTHEASTERN SYRIA. THE STRUCTURE IS ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN A GAS-COOLED GRAPHITE-MODERATED NUCLEAR REACTOR UNDER CONSTRUCTION, CAPABLE OF PRODUCING ENOUGH PLUTONIUM FOR ONE OR TWO WEAPONS PER YEAR. THE FACILITY WAS DESTROYED IN THE ISRAELI AIRSTRIKE BEFORE IT BECAME OPERATIONAL. INVESTIGATIONS BY THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY LATER CONCLUDED THAT THE SITE WAS LIKELY INTENDED FOR NUCLEAR ACTIVITY, THOUGH SYRIA DENIED THE ALLEGATIONS. THE INCIDENT HEIGHTENED TENSIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND RAISED CONCERNS ABOUT HIDDEN NUCLEAR PROGRAMMES IN UNSTABLE REGIONS.

## KEY ACTORS AND STAKEHOLDERS

### THE UNITED STATES

ESTIMATED ARSENAL: ~5,177 WARHEADS

KEY TREATIES/FRAWORKS SUPPORTED: NPT, NEW START, IAEA SAFEGUARDS, CTBT (SIGNED)

THE UNITED STATES REMAINS ONE OF THE FOREMOST STAKEHOLDERS WITHIN THE GLOBAL NUCLEAR ORDER AND CONTINUES TO SHAPE INTERNATIONAL DETERRENCE POLICY THROUGH ITS ALLIANCES AND STRATEGIC COMMITMENTS. ITS NUCLEAR POSTURE HAS INCREASINGLY BEEN INFLUENCED BY GEOPOLITICAL TENSIONS IN EASTERN EUROPE, THE ARCTIC, AND THE INDO-PACIFIC. THE EXPANSION OF NATO TOWARD RUSSIA'S BORDERS, THE CONFLICT IN UKRAINE, AND RISING TENSIONS SURROUNDING TAIWAN AND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA HAVE REINFORCED AMERICAN INVESTMENTS IN STRATEGIC MODERNISATION AND MISSILE DEFENCE SYSTEMS. WASHINGTON ADDITIONALLY EXTENDS NUCLEAR DETERRENCE GUARANTEES TO ALLIES SUCH AS JAPAN AND SOUTH KOREA, THEREBY MAKING REGIONAL BORDER CONFLICTS DIRECTLY RELEVANT TO BROADER GLOBAL STRATEGIC STABILITY.

AT ITS PEAK, THE UNITED STATES HAD MORE THAN 31,000 NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN ITS STOCKPILE. THROUGH VARIOUS ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS AND UNILATERAL REDUCTIONS, THE UNITED STATES HAS REDUCED THIS TO ITS CURRENT NUCLEAR ESTIMATED INVENTORY OF 5,177 NUCLEAR WARHEADS, WITH AROUND 3,700 ACTIVE WARHEADS IN THE STOCKPILE AND 1,477 RETIRED WARHEADS DISMANTLEMENT. THESE WEAPONS ARE DEPLOYED ON AIR, SEA, AND LAND PLATFORMS IN WHAT IS REFERRED TO AS "THE NUCLEAR TRIAD." THE UNITED STATES CURRENTLY PLANS TO SPEND UP TO \$1.5 TRILLION TO OVERHAUL ITS NUCLEAR ARSENAL BY REBUILDING EACH LEG OF THE TRIAD AND ITS ACCOMPANYING INFRASTRUCTURE.

### RUSSIA

ESTIMATED ARSENAL: ~5,580 WARHEADS

KEY TREATIES/FRAWORKS SUPPORTED: NPT, NEW START

FOUR YEARS AFTER THE UNITED STATES FIRST TESTED AND USED NUCLEAR WEAPONS, THE SOVIET UNION USHERED IN A NEW NUCLEAR ERA WITH ITS FIRST NUCLEAR TEST ON AUGUST 29, 1949. WITHIN A FEW YEARS, THE ARMS RACE WAS IN FULL STEAM AS THE SOVIETS GREW THEIR ARSENAL AND CONDUCTED 715 ATMOSPHERIC AND UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR TESTS FROM 1949-1990. AT ITS PEAK IN 1986, THE SOVIET UNION HAD AROUND 40,000 NUCLEAR WARHEADS IN ITS STOCKPILE.

THROUGH A NUMBER OF BILATERAL ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS WITH THE UNITED STATES AT THE END OF AND AFTER THE COLD WAR, THE RUSSIAN ARSENAL WAS REDUCED SIGNIFICANTLY. TODAY, RUSSIA MAINTAINS A STOCKPILE OF AN ESTIMATED 5,459 NUCLEAR WARHEADS, 1,718 OF WHICH ARE DEPLOYED ON STRATEGIC LAND-BASED BALLISTIC MISSILES, SUBMARINE-LAUNCHED BALLISTIC MISSILES, AND HEAVY BOMBERS. AN ESTIMATED 1,150 WARHEADS AWAIT DISMANTLEMENT.

RUSSIA AND THE UNITED STATES TOGETHER STILL HOLD MORE THAN 90% OF THE WORLD'S NUCLEAR ARSENAL, HOWEVER, SO IT IS IMPERATIVE TO MAINTAIN CIVIL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND ELIMINATE THE RISK OF NUCLEAR WAR. FOR DECADES, U.S. PRESIDENTS AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS FROM BOTH PARTIES HAVE SUPPORTED VERIFIABLE ARMS CONTROL TREATIES BEGINNING WITH THE NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY THROUGH THE START TREATIES. WITH THE END OF THE SOVIET UNION, SIGNIFICANT FOCUS WAS PLACED ON REDUCING FISSILE MATERIALS IN RUSSIA THROUGH THE NUNN-LUGAR COOPERATE THREAT REDUCTION (CTR) PROGRAMME AND ELIMINATING NUCLEAR WEAPONS FROM THE FORMER SOVIET STATES OF UKRAINE, BELARUS, AND KAZAKHSTAN.

TODAY, WITH U.S.-RUSSIAN RELATIONS AT A POST-COLD WAR LOW, AND AS BOTH COUNTRIES MODERNIZE THEIR NUCLEAR ARSENALS, THE REALITY OF A NEW NUCLEAR ARMS RACE UNDERSCORES THE NEED FOR SENSIBLE NON-PROLIFERATION AND ARMS CONTROL COOPERATION. DESPITE THIS, THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION WITHDREW FROM A NUMBER OF CRITICAL ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS, INCLUDING THE INTERMEDIATE-RANGE NUCLEAR FORCES (INF) TREATY AND THE OPEN SKIES TREATY. IN EARLY 2021, THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION REACHED AN AGREEMENT WITH RUSSIA TO EXTEND THE NEW START TREATY UNTIL FEBRUARY 2026, THE ONLY REMAINING ARMS CONTROL TREATY BETWEEN THE WORLD'S TWO LARGEST ARSENALS. WITH THIS EXTENSION IN PLACE, THE UNITED STATES AND RUSSIA SHOULD BEGIN TALKS TO EXPAND ON FURTHER MUTUAL REDUCTIONS AND OTHER AREAS OF CONCERN, INCLUDING NON-STRATEGIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS, MISSILE DEFENCES, AND OTHER EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES. UNFORTUNATELY, RUSSIAN PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN DECLARED IN LATE FEBRUARY 2023 THAT RUSSIA WAS "SUSPENDING" ITS PARTICIPATION IN NEW START. HE FRAMED THE STEP AS NECESSARY GIVEN (IMAGINED) U.S. PROVOCATIONS, BUT IN REALITY IT MERELY CONFIRMED WHAT WAS ALREADY RUSSIAN POLICY. THIS ANNOUNCEMENT FOLLOWED A SERIES OF IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES. THE UNITED STATES DETERMINED THAT RUSSIA WAS NOT IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE TREATY IN JANUARY 2023. A STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESPERSON EXPLAINED, "RUSSIA'S REFUSAL TO FACILITATE INSPECTION ACTIVITIES PREVENTS THE UNITED STATES FROM EXERCISING IMPORTANT RIGHTS UNDER THE TREATY AND THREATENS THE VIABILITY OF US-RUSSIAN NUCLEAR ARMS CONTROL." IN AUGUST 2022, THE KREMLIN BLOCKED TREATY-BOUND INSPECTIONS VISITS TO ITS FACILITIES AND IN NOVEMBER 2022, MOSCOW POSTPONED THE TREATY'S BILATERAL CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION. AS YET, THERE HAS BEEN NO FINDING OF A MATERIAL BREACH OF TREATY LIMITS, AND RUSSIA AND THE UNITED STATES REMAIN BELOW THE 2018 DEPLOYMENT LIMITS.

## FRANCE

ESTIMATED ARSENAL: ~290 WARHEADS

KEY TREATIES/FRAMWORKS SUPPORTED: NPT, CTBT, NEW START SUPPORT FRAMEWORKS

IN 1960, FRANCE BECAME THE FOURTH NUCLEAR-ARMED STATE WHEN IT TESTED ITS FIRST LARGE NUCLEAR DEVICE IN ALGERIA, THEN A FRENCH COLONY. FRANCE CONDUCTED 17 NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTS IN ALGERIA IN TOTAL. FOLLOWING ALGERIAN INDEPENDENCE IN 1962, FRANCE CREATED TWO NEW TEST SITES IN FRENCH POLYNESIA AND CONDUCTED ANOTHER 193 ATMOSPHERIC AND UNDERGROUND TESTS BETWEEN 1966 AND 1996. FRANCE THEN SIGNED THE 1996 COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY AND RATIFIED THE AGREEMENT IN 1998. FRANCE IS ONE OF THE FIVE NUCLEAR-WEAPON STATES RECOGNIZED UNDER THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT). SINCE THE END OF THE COLD WAR, FRANCE HAS REDUCED ITS STOCKPILE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS FROM AN APPROXIMATE HIGH OF 540 TO ITS CURRENT ESTIMATED ARSENAL OF APPROXIMATELY 290. THE COUNTRY DEACTIVATED ITS LAND-BASED MISSILES AT PLATEAU D'ALBION IN 1996 AND IMPLoded THE SILOS, SO IT NO LONGER HAS A NUCLEAR TRIAD. FRANCE MAINTAINS A CONSTANT AT-SEA PRESENCE THROUGH ITS NUCLEAR-POWERED SUBMARINES, ASSURING IT A SECOND-STRIKE CAPABILITY, AND IS IN THE PROCESS OF MODERNIZING ITS AIR- AND SEA-BASED NUCLEAR FORCES, AS WELL AS THEIR DELIVERY VEHICLES. FRANCE'S NUCLEAR FORCES ARE NOT A PART OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION'S (NATO) INTEGRATED MILITARY DECISION-MAKING RESPONSIBILITIES. HOWEVER, FRANCE IS AN INDEPENDENTLY REMAINING NUCLEAR-WEAPON STATE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU), FOLLOWING THE UNITED KINGDOM'S EXIT FROM THE EU ON JANUARY 31, 2020. PRESIDENT EMMANUEL MACRON WAS QUICK TO ARTICULATE IN A SPEECH ON FRANCE'S NUCLEAR FORCES AFTER THE UK'S EXIT THAT, "FRANCE'S VITAL INTERESTS NOW HAVE A EUROPEAN DIMENSION."

## UNITED KINGDOM

ESTIMATED ARSENAL: ~225 WARHEADS

KEY TREATIES/FRAMWORKS SUPPORTED: NPT, CTBT, NATO NUCLEAR ARRANGEMENTS

THE UNITED KINGDOM REMAINS A SIGNIFICANT STAKEHOLDER IN THE EURO-ATLANTIC SECURITY ARCHITECTURE THROUGH ITS ROLE WITHIN NATO'S NUCLEAR DETERRENCE FRAMEWORK. THE RESURGENCE OF CONFLICT IN EASTERN EUROPE AND CONCERNS REGARDING RUSSIAN MILITARY ACTIVITY NEAR NATO BORDERS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE EXPANSION AND MODERNISATION OF BRITAIN'S NUCLEAR POSTURE. LONDON HAS INCREASINGLY EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF CREDIBLE DETERRENCE AMID A DETERIORATING STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT.

## INDIA

ESTIMATED ARSENAL: ~180 WARHEADS

KEY TREATIES/FRAWORKS SUPPORTED: NO-FIRST-USE DOCTRINE; NOT PARTY TO THE NPT OR CTBT

INDIA'S NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAMME DEVELOPED LARGELY IN RESPONSE TO REGIONAL BORDER CONFLICTS AND STRATEGIC INSECURITY. THE 1962 SINO-INDIAN WAR, TERRITORIAL DISPUTES ALONG THE LINE OF ACTUAL CONTROL WITH CHINA, AND REPEATED CONFLICTS WITH PAKISTAN OVER KASHMIR SIGNIFICANTLY INFLUENCED INDIA'S PURSUIT OF NUCLEAR DETERRENCE CAPABILITIES. INDIA MAINTAINS A DOCTRINE OF CREDIBLE MINIMUM DETERRENCE; HOWEVER, RECURRING MILITARY CONFRONTATIONS ALONG DISPUTED BORDERS CONTINUE TO HEIGHTEN ESCALATION RISKS WITHIN SOUTH ASIA.

## PAKISTAN

ESTIMATED ARSENAL: ~170 WARHEADS

KEY TREATIES/FRAWORKS SUPPORTED: CIVILIAN IAEA COOPERATION; NOT PARTY TO THE NPT

PAKISTAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAMME EMERGED DIRECTLY FROM ITS STRATEGIC RIVALRY AND TERRITORIAL DISPUTES WITH INDIA, PARTICULARLY REGARDING KASHMIR. SUCCESSIVE WARS, BORDER SKIRMISHES, AND MILITARY CRISES REINFORCED ISLAMABAD'S PERCEPTION THAT NUCLEAR DETERRENCE WAS NECESSARY TO OFFSET INDIA'S CONVENTIONAL MILITARY SUPERIORITY. THE KARGIL CONFLICT AND SUBSEQUENT CROSS-BORDER ESCALATIONS DEMONSTRATED THE EXTENT TO WHICH UNRESOLVED TERRITORIAL DISPUTES CAN GENERATE NUCLEAR INSTABILITY IN SOUTH ASIA.

## ISRAEL

ESTIMATED ARSENAL: ~90 WARHEADS (THOUGH UNDECLARED OFFICIALLY)

KEY TREATIES/FRAWORKS SUPPORTED: CTBT (SIGNED); NOT PARTY TO THE NPT

ISRAEL'S UNDECLARED NUCLEAR CAPABILITY IS INTRINSICALLY LINKED TO THE BROADER SECURITY ENVIRONMENT OF THE MIDDLE EAST. SINCE 1948, ISRAEL HAS CONFRONTED REPEATED WARS, TERRITORIAL DISPUTES, AND SECURITY THREATS INVOLVING NEIGHBOURING STATES AND NON-STATE ACTORS. ONGOING TENSIONS CONCERNING GAZA, SOUTHERN LEBANON, SYRIA, AND IRAN CONTINUE TO SHAPE ISRAELI STRATEGIC DOCTRINE, WITH NUCLEAR AMBIGUITY SERVING AS A DETERRENT AGAINST PERCEIVED EXISTENTIAL THREATS.

## NORTH KOREA

ESTIMATED ARSENAL: ~56 WARHEADS

KEY TREATIES/FRAMEWORKS SUPPORTED: FORMER NPT MEMBER; WITHDREW IN 2003

NORTH KOREA REPRESENTS ONE OF THE MOST DIRECT CHALLENGES TO THE INTERNATIONAL NON-PROLIFERATION REGIME. THE UNRESOLVED DIVISION OF THE KOREAN PENINSULA, MILITARY TENSIONS ALONG THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE, AND ADVERSARIAL RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES AND SOUTH KOREA HAVE ACCELERATED PYONGYANG'S NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAMME. NORTH KOREA VIEWS NUCLEAR DETERRENCE AS INDISPENSABLE FOR REGIME SURVIVAL AND TERRITORIAL SECURITY, THEREBY MAKING BORDER CONFLICT A CENTRAL DRIVER OF ITS PROLIFERATION ACTIVITIES.

## IRAN

IRAN REMAINS A MAJOR STAKEHOLDER DUE TO PERSISTENT INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS REGARDING ITS URANIUM ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES AND LATENT NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES. REGIONAL INSECURITY, PARTICULARLY TENSIONS WITH ISRAEL, U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE GULF, AND INSTABILITY ACROSS IRAQ AND SYRIA, HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO TEHRAN'S EMPHASIS ON STRATEGIC DETERRENCE. THE COLLAPSE AND WEAKENING OF THE JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION FOLLOWING RENEWED SANCTIONS HEIGHTENED FEARS THAT PROLONGED REGIONAL CONFRONTATION COULD INCENTIVIZE FUTURE WEAPONIZATION EFFORTS.

## UKRAINE

KEY TREATIES/FRAMEWORKS SUPPORTED: NPT, BUDAPEST MEMORANDUM (1994)

AT THE TIME OF UKRAINE'S INDEPENDENCE FROM THE SOVIET UNION IN 1991, UKRAINE HELD THE THIRD LARGEST NUCLEAR ARSENAL IN THE WORLD, INCLUDING AN ESTIMATED 1,900 STRATEGIC WARHEADS, 176 INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILES (ICBMS), AND 44 STRATEGIC BOMBERS. BY 1996, UKRAINE HAD RETURNED ALL OF ITS NUCLEAR WARHEADS TO RUSSIA UNDER THE BUDAPEST MEMORANDUM IN EXCHANGE FOR ECONOMIC AID AND SECURITY ASSURANCES, AND IN DECEMBER 1994, UKRAINE BECAME A NON-NUCLEAR WEAPON STATE-PARTY TO THE 1968 NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT). HOWEVER, THE ANNEXATION OF CRIMEA IN 2014 AND THE SUBSEQUENT RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR PROFOUNDLY UNDERMINED CONFIDENCE IN SECURITY GUARANTEES OFFERED TO NON-NUCLEAR STATES. THE CONFLICT HAS CONSEQUENTLY INTENSIFIED DEBATES WORLDWIDE REGARDING WHETHER STATES FACING TERRITORIAL THREATS MAY INCREASINGLY PERCEIVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS AS ESSENTIAL INSTRUMENTS OF DETERRENCE AND SURVIVAL.

## SOUTH KOREA

SOUTH KOREA REMAINS HEAVILY AFFECTED BY NORTH KOREA'S NUCLEAR PROGRAMME AND THE UNRESOLVED DIVISION OF THE KOREAN PENINSULA. REPEATED MISSILE TESTS, MILITARY PROVOCATIONS NEAR MARITIME BORDERS, AND CONCERNS REGARDING THE CREDIBILITY OF EXTERNAL SECURITY GUARANTEES HAVE PERIODICALLY GENERATED DOMESTIC DEBATES WITHIN SOUTH KOREA CONCERNING THE RISK OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION. THE KOREAN SECURITY AND ASYMMETRIC THREATS CAN CONTRIBUTE INDIRECTLY TO PROLIFERATION PRESSURES EVEN AMONG NON-NUCLEAR STATES.

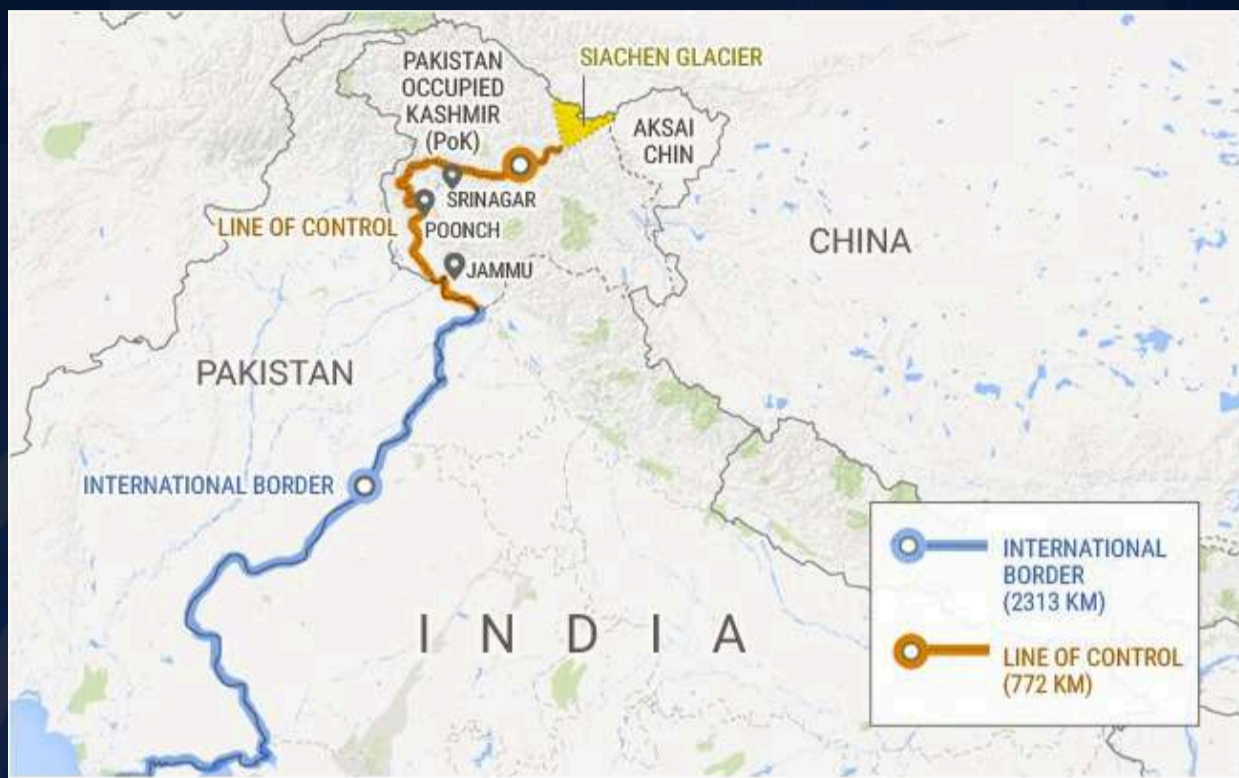
## SAUDI ARABIA

THE STRATEGIC RIVALRY BETWEEN IRAN AND SAUDI ARABIA HAS BECOME A DEFINING FEATURE OF MIDDLE EASTERN GEOPOLITICS. PROXY CONFLICTS ACROSS YEMEN, SYRIA, LEBANON, AND THE GULF REGION, COMBINED WITH MARITIME AND TERRITORIAL DISPUTES, HAVE FREQUENTLY RECALIBRATED THAT ANY FUTURE IRANIAN WEAPONIZATION COULD COMPEL RIYADH TO PURSUE COMPARABLE DETERRENCE CAPABILITIES, THEREBY DEMONSTRATING HOW REGIONAL CONFLICTS MAY GENERATE CASCADING PROLIFERATION PRESSURES. SAUDI ARABIA'S CROWN PRINCE MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN HAS STATED THAT SAUDI ARABIA WILL DEVELOP NUCLEAR WEAPONS IF ITS REGIONAL RIVAL, IRAN, ACQUIRES THEM, AIMING TO MATCH IRAN'S NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES. WHILE THE KINGDOM OFFICIALLY PURSUES A PEACEFUL NUCLEAR PROGRAMME FOR ENERGY, THIS "RED LINE" SIGNALS A POTENTIAL NUCLEAR ARMS RACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

**DISEC**

## CASE STUDIES

# INDO-PAK BORDER CONFLICT



### BACKGROUND

THE RIVALRY BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN IS ONE OF THE CLEAREST EXAMPLES OF HOW PROLONGED BORDER CONFLICTS CAN LEAD TO THE DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAMMES. SINCE THEIR PARTITION IN 1947, BOTH COUNTRIES HAVE FOUGHT MULTIPLE WARS, PARTICULARLY OVER THE DISPUTED REGION OF KASHMIR. BY THE 1990S, ONGOING MILITARY TENSIONS, CROSS-BORDER VIOLENCE AND FEARS OF STRATEGIC DISADVANTAGE PUSHED BOTH NATIONS TOWARD OPENLY DEVELOPING NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES. DURING THIS PERIOD, BOTH COUNTRIES VIEWED NUCLEAR WEAPONS AS A MEANS OF DETERRENCE AND NATIONAL SECURITY. INDIA HAD ALREADY CONDUCTED ITS FIRST NUCLEAR TEST IN 1974, BUT TENSIONS DURING THE LATE 1980S AND 1990S ACCELERATED FURTHER WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT.

PAKISTAN, FEARING MILITARY IMBALANCE WITH INDIA, RAPIDLY EXPANDED ITS OWN NUCLEAR PROGRAMME, FOCUSING HEAVILY ON URANIUM ENRICHMENT AND WEAPONS RESEARCH.

## THE NUCLEAR DIMENSION

IN MAY 1998, INDIA CONDUCTED A SERIES OF NUCLEAR TESTS UNDER OPERATION POKHRAN-II, OFFICIALLY DECLARING ITSELF A NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATE. INDIA JUSTIFIED THE TESTS AS NECESSARY FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AND STRATEGIC DETERRENCE.

IN RESPONSE, PAKISTAN CARRIED OUT ITS OWN TESTS SHORTLY AFTERWARD THROUGH THE CHAGAI-I NUCLEAR TESTS. PAKISTAN ARGUED THAT THE TESTS WERE ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAIN STRATEGIC BALANCE IN THE REGION AND PREVENT MILITARY DISADVANTAGE AGAINST INDIA.

THESE EVENTS MARKED A MAJOR TURNING POINT IN SOUTH ASIAN GEOPOLITICS, AS BOTH COUNTRIES OPENLY DEMONSTRATED NUCLEAR CAPABILITY WITHIN WEEKS OF EACH OTHER.

FOLLOWING THE 1998 NUCLEAR TESTS, BOTH INDIA AND PAKISTAN ACCELERATED THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR NUCLEAR INFRASTRUCTURE AND MILITARY CAPABILITIES. THIS INCLUDED INVESTMENTS IN BALLISTIC MISSILE SYSTEMS, NUCLEAR DELIVERY MECHANISMS, URANIUM ENRICHMENT FACILITIES, AND WEAPONS STOCKPILES. THE REGION CONSEQUENTLY ENTERED A NUCLEAR ARMS RACE, WITH EACH STATE SEEKING TO MAINTAIN STRATEGIC PARITY AND PREVENT THE OTHER FROM GAINING MILITARY SUPERIORITY.

## CONSEQUENCES

THE 1998 NUCLEAR TESTS CONDUCTED BY INDIA AND PAKISTAN WERE STRONGLY CRITICIZED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, WHICH FEARED INCREASED REGIONAL INSTABILITY AND WEAKENING OF THE GLOBAL NON-PROLIFERATION REGIME. COUNTRIES SUCH AS THE UNITED STATES IMPOSED ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AND SUSPENDED COOPERATION WITH BOTH STATES, WHILE THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL CONDEMNED THE TESTS THROUGH RESOLUTION 1172. DESPITE THIS, BOTH COUNTRIES CONTINUED TO MODERNIZE AND EXPAND THEIR NUCLEAR ARSENALS, INVESTING IN MISSILE SYSTEMS, URANIUM ENRICHMENT, AND DETERRENCE CAPABILITIES.

TODAY, THE CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR ARSENALS AND MISSILE CAPABILITIES BY INDIA AND PAKISTAN HAS CONTRIBUTED TO AN ONGOING NUCLEAR ARMS RACE IN SOUTH ASIA, INCREASING GLOBAL CONCERNS OVER REGIONAL INSTABILITY, ACCIDENTAL ESCALATION, AND THE BROADER WEAKENING OF INTERNATIONAL NON-PROLIFERATION EFFORTS.

## CONCLUSION

THE INDO-PAK BORDER CONFLICT SHOWS HOW LONG-STANDING TERRITORIAL DISPUTES CAN ESCALATE INTO NUCLEAR RIVALRY, WITH BOTH INDIA AND PAKISTAN DEVELOPING NUCLEAR WEAPONS FOR DETERRENCE. THIS HAS INTENSIFIED REGIONAL TENSIONS AND CONTRIBUTED TO AN ONGOING ARMS RACE. TODAY, IT REMAINS A KEY EXAMPLE OF HOW BORDER CONFLICTS CAN HAVE SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR GLOBAL PEACE AND NUCLEAR SECURITY.

# RUSSIA-UKRAINE BORDER CONFLICT



## BACKGROUND

THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT IS ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT GEOPOLITICAL TENSIONS OF THE 21ST CENTURY, WITH MAJOR IMPLICATIONS FOR GLOBAL SECURITY. THE INVASION OF UKRAINE HAS TRIGGERED THE LARGEST CONFLICT IN EUROPE SINCE WORLD WAR II, ACCORDING TO NATO SECRETARY GENERAL JENS STOLTENBERG. IT DEMONSTRATES THE THREATS POSED ON CIVIL AND SOCIAL SECURITY BY NUCLEAR DETERRENCE.

IN 1922, THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS (USSR) WAS ESTABLISHED UNDER A CENTRALIZED COMMUNIST REGIME. THE USSR INCLUDED REPUBLICS SUCH AS RUSSIA, UKRAINE, BELARUS, GEORGIA, KAZAKHSTAN, AND OTHERS, BEFORE DISSOLVING IN DECEMBER 1991. THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT BEGAN IN 2014 AND HAS BECOME ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT GEOPOLITICAL CRISES OF THE 21ST CENTURY. FOLLOWING PROTESTS IN 2014 THAT OVERTHREW PRO-RUSSIAN PRESIDENT VIKTOR YANUKOVYCH, RUSSIA ANNEXED CRIMEA IN FEBRUARY 2014. FOLLOWING THE ANNEXATION, PRO-RUSSIAN SEPARATIST MOVEMENTS EMERGED IN THE DONETSK AND LUHANSK REGIONS, RESULTING IN VIOLENT CLASHES WITH UKRAINIAN FORCES. DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS SUCH AS THE MINSK AGREEMENTS FAILED TO ESTABLISH LASTING PEACE. IN FEBRUARY 2022, RUSSIA LAUNCHED A FULL-SCALE INVASION OF UKRAINE. THE INVASION MARKED A MAJOR ESCALATION OF THE CONFLICT AND INTENSIFIED GLOBAL SECURITY CONCERNS, INCLUDING FEARS OF POSSIBLE NUCLEAR ESCALATION.

### THE NUCLEAR DIMENSION

THE THREAT OF RUSSIA USING TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS LARGELY FUELS PUBLIC “NUCLEAR” FEARS ASSOCIATED WITH THE WAR IN UKRAINE. RUSSIAN OFFICIALS REPEATEDLY ISSUED NUCLEAR THREATS AND WARNINGS DURING THE CONFLICT, PARTICULARLY IN RESPONSE TO WESTERN MILITARY SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE. FOLLOWING RUSSIA’S ANNEXATION OF CRIMEA IN 2014 AND THE FULL-SCALE INVASION IN 2022, MANY ANALYSTS QUESTIONED WHETHER UKRAINE’S DECISION TO SURRENDER ITS NUCLEAR ARSENAL UNDER THE BUDAPEST MEMORANDUM WEAKENED ITS NATIONAL SECURITY. AT THE TIME OF UKRAINE’S INDEPENDENCE FROM THE SOVIET UNION IN 1991, UKRAINE POSSESSED THE WORLD’S THIRD-LARGEST NUCLEAR ARSENAL. BY 1996, UKRAINE HAD RETURNED ALL OF ITS NUCLEAR WARHEADS TO RUSSIA IN EXCHANGE FOR ECONOMIC AID AND SECURITY ASSURANCES FROM RUSSIA, THE UNITED STATES, AND THE UNITED KINGDOM UNDER THE BUDAPEST MEMORANDUM. IN 2022, THE URANIUM ENRICHMENT MARKET WAS IMPACTED BY THE RUSSIAN-UKRAINIAN CONFLICT, AS MANY UTILITIES, PARTICULARLY IN EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES, SOUGHT TO DIVERSIFY THEIR NUCLEAR FUEL SUPPLY. THE CONFLICT HAS ALSO RAISED FEARS OF A RENEWED GLOBAL ARMS RACE, WITH SEVERAL COUNTRIES REASSESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF NUCLEAR DETERRENCE AND STRATEGIC MILITARY CAPABILITIES IN MAINTAINING NATIONAL SECURITY.

## CONSEQUENCES

RUSSIA'S INVASION OF UKRAINE IN FEBRUARY 2022 CREATED MAJOR CONSEQUENCES, INCLUDING FOOD INSECURITY, AN ENERGY CRISIS IN EUROPE, ECONOMIC INSTABILITY, AND RISING INFLATION. HOWEVER, ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS HAS BEEN ON GLOBAL NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION EFFORTS.

AFTER THE COLLAPSE OF THE SOVIET UNION IN 1991, UKRAINE INHERITED A LARGE NUMBER OF SOVIET NUCLEAR WEAPONS, BECOMING THE WORLD'S THIRD-LARGEST NUCLEAR POWER. ALTHOUGH THERE WAS SUPPORT FOR RETAINING THESE WEAPONS AS A DETERRENT, UKRAINE AGREED TO GIVE THEM UP UNDER THE BUDAPEST MEMORANDUM ON SECURITY ASSURANCES (1994) IN EXCHANGE FOR ECONOMIC SUPPORT AND SECURITY GUARANTEES FROM RUSSIA, THE UNITED STATES, AND THE UNITED KINGDOM. THE AGREEMENT STATED THAT UKRAINE'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE WOULD BE RESPECTED.

FOLLOWING RUSSIA'S ANNEXATION OF CRIMEA IN 2014 AND THE FULL-SCALE INVASION IN 2022, MANY UKRAINIANS ARGUED THAT THE SECURITY ASSURANCES OF THE BUDAPEST MEMORANDUM HAD FAILED. THIS HAS WEAKENED CONFIDENCE IN NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT AGREEMENTS WORLDWIDE. MANY ANALYSTS BELIEVE THAT UKRAINE'S EXPERIENCE MAY DISCOURAGE OTHER COUNTRIES FROM GIVING UP NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN THE FUTURE, AS NUCLEAR DETERRENCE IS INCREASINGLY VIEWED AS ESSENTIAL FOR NATIONAL SECURITY.

THE CONFLICT HAS ALSO RAISED CONCERNS ABOUT NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION IN COUNTRIES SUCH AS NORTH KOREA AND IRAN. REPORTS SUGGEST THAT RUSSIA'S GROWING RELIANCE ON THESE STATES FOR MILITARY SUPPORT MAY INVOLVE TRANSFERS OF MISSILE OR NUCLEAR-RELATED TECHNOLOGY. ADDITIONALLY, THE WAR HAS REVIVED DEBATES OVER WHETHER UKRAINE MAY EVENTUALLY RECONSIDER DEVELOPING NUCLEAR WEAPONS, ALTHOUGH THERE IS CURRENTLY NO EVIDENCE OF AN ACTIVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAMME.

## CONCLUSION

THE RUSSO-UKRAINIAN WAR IN THE HIGHLY TECHNOLOGICAL ERA HAS PLENTY TO OFFER REGARDING HOW WAR IS NOT TO BE FOUGHT BY THE SUPERIOR NATION AND HOW THE END STATE OF THE SUPERIOR FORCE CAN STILL BE KEPT AT BAY BY AN INFERIOR NATION, ALTHOUGH AT A HIGHER COST. IT ALSO REVEALS THAT EVERY COUNTRY WILL HAVE TO DEPEND ON ITSELF DURING SUCH A CRISIS DUE TO GLOBAL AND REGIONAL GEOPOLITICAL AND GEOECONOMIC COMPLEXITIES. DUE TO THE SITUATION BEING FACED BY UKRAINE, OTHER NATIONS HAVE TAKEN IT AS A LEARNING LESSON TO RETAIN NUCLEAR ARMS IN THEIR COUNTRIES. OVERALL, THIS CONFLICT DEMONSTRATES HOW TERRITORIAL DISPUTES CAN

## ROLE OF BORDER CONFLICTS IN FOSTERING CROSS-BORDER TERRORISM

AMID THE CHAOS OF THE SOVIET–AFGHAN WAR (1979–1989), THE MOUNTAINOUS AFGHANISTAN–PAKISTAN FRONTIER TRANSFORMED INTO MORE THAN A BATTLEFIELD, IT BECAME THE INCUBATOR OF MODERN TRANSNATIONAL EXTREMISM. WHAT BEGAN AS FRAGMENTED MILITANT RESISTANCE DURING THE CONFLICT GRADUALLY EVOLVED INTO HEAVILY ARMED JIHADIST NETWORKS, EVENTUALLY CONTRIBUTING TO THE EMERGENCE OF GROUPS SUCH AS AL-QAEDA AND LATER THE TALIBAN. BACKED BY ILLICIT ARMS FLOWS, FOREIGN FIGHTERS AND WEAK BORDER ENFORCEMENT, THE CONFLICT ZONE INSTITUTIONALIZED MILITANT MOBILITY ACROSS BORDERS, CREATING OPERATIONAL CORRIDORS THAT CONTINUE TO DESTABILISE SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA DECADES LATER. BORDER CONFLICTS FREQUENTLY FOSTER CROSS-BORDER TERRORISM AND THESE CONFLICTS SEVERELY WEAKEN STATE AUTHORITY BY OVERSTRETCHING MILITARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE INSTITUTIONS, REDUCING THE GOVERNMENT’S ABILITY TO EFFECTIVELY ENFORCE LAW, MAINTAIN BORDER INFRASTRUCTURE AND REGULATE CIVILIAN MOVEMENT IN CONTESTED REGIONS. SIMULTANEOUSLY, REPEATED CLASHES DAMAGE SURVEILLANCE ASSETS SUCH AS RADAR SYSTEMS, CHECKPOINTS, FENCING NETWORKS COMMUNICATION LINES, CREATING INTELLIGENCE GAPS ALONG BORDERS. THESE SECURITY VACUUMS GENERATE “UNGOVERNED SPACES”: TERRITORIES WHERE STATE PRESENCE BECOMES MINIMAL OR INCONSISTENT ALLOWING NON-STATE ACTORS TO ESTABLISH TRAINING CAMPS, WEAPONS DEPOTS, SMUGGLING CORRIDORS AND RECRUITMENT NETWORKS BEYOND EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENTAL OVERSIGHT

ACCORDING TO THE UNITED NATIONS, OVER 108 MILLION PEOPLE WERE FORCIBLY DISPLACED GLOBALLY BY 2023, WITH CONFLICT ZONES BECOMING PRIME RECRUITMENT GROUNDS FOR EXTREMIST ORGANIZATIONS. POROUS BORDERS FURTHER FACILITATE ILLEGAL ARMS TRAFFICKING; THE GLOBAL ILLICIT ARMS TRADE IS ESTIMATED TO EXCEED USD 1 BILLION ANNUALLY. REGIONS SUCH AS THE SAHEL WITNESSED A 2,000% INCREASE IN TERRORISM-RELATED DEATHS BETWEEN 2007 AND 2022 DUE TO BORDER INSTABILITY, WEAK GOVERNANCE AND MILITANT EXPANSION ACROSS MALI, NIGER AND BURKINA FASO. SIMILARLY, INFILTRATION ACROSS THE LINE OF CONTROL BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN HAS REPEATEDLY INTENSIFIED REGIONAL TENSIONS AND INSURGENT VIOLENCE.

THUS, PROLONGED BORDER DISPUTES NO LONGER REMAIN CONFINED TO TERRITORIAL DISAGREEMENTS ALONE; THEY EVOLVE INTO TRANSNATIONAL SECURITY THREATS CAPABLE OF DESTABILIZING ECONOMIES, DISPLACING POPULATIONS AND STRENGTHENING EXTREMIST NETWORKS ACROSS ENTIRE REGION ENSURING EFFECTIVE BORDER SECURITY AND MANAGEMENT IS ESSENTIAL FOR PREVENTING AND COUNTERING THE FLOW OF SUSPECTED TERRORISTS AND FOREIGN TERRORIST FIGHTERS (FTFs) ACROSS LAND, AIR, AND MARITIME BORDERS, AS WELL AS THE CROSS-BORDER MOVEMENT OF LICIT AND ILLICIT CARGO, INCLUDING DRUGS, WEAPONS, ARMS, AND MUNITIONS THAT MAY BE USED FOR TERRORIST PURPOSES.

DESPITE ENHANCED MEASURES TAKEN BY MEMBER STATES IN RECENT YEARS TO STRENGTHEN BORDER SECURITY, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF THE EVOLVING FTF PHENOMENON, CAPACITIES IN THIS AREA VARY WIDELY AND GAPS CONTINUE TO EXIST IN THE COLLECTION, USE AND SHARING OF PASSENGER DATA, EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF IDENTITY PAPERS AND TRAVEL DOCUMENTS, BORDER SCREENING PROCESSES, USE OF TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT AND TRAINED BORDER PERSONNEL, AND COORDINATED BORDER MANAGEMENT. TO RESPOND TO THE GAPS, UNCCT (UNITED NATIONS COUNTER-TERRORISM CENTRE) SUPPORTS MEMBER STATES AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN IMPLEMENTING THE UN GLOBAL COUNTER-TERRORISM STRATEGY AND RELEVANT SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS, SUCH AS 1373 (2001), 1540 (2004), 2178 (2014), 2309 (2016), 2396 (2017), AND 2482 (2019) THROUGH THE PROVISION OF TAILORED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON BORDER SECURITY AND MANAGEMENT GOOD PRACTICES, INTER-AGENCY AND CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION, INFORMATION SHARING, AND BORDER-MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS, AMONG OTHER ISSUES.

**DISEC**

## ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

IN TODAY'S WORLD OF GLOBAL INTERDEPENDENCE, THE POTENTIAL ECONOMIC IMPACT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS USE IS LIKELY TO BE FAR MORE EXTENSIVE THAN PREVIOUSLY ESTIMATED. NATIONAL ECONOMIES RELY ON CROSS-BORDER TRADE AND INVESTMENT, INTERCONNECTED FINANCIAL MARKETS, DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE, AND COMPLEX GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS. AS A RESULT, A MAJOR SHOCK IN A SINGLE COUNTRY, ESPECIALLY SOMETHING AS CONSEQUENTIAL AS NUCLEAR WEAPONS USE IS LIKELY TO CAUSE WIDESPREAD CASCADING FAILURES ACROSS THE GLOBAL ECONOMY.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE RISK OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS USE, WHETHER INTENTIONAL OR THROUGH ACCIDENT OR MISCALCULATION, IS GROWING. THIS COINCIDES WITH THE RAPID EVOLUTION OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES, WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO INCREASE NUCLEAR RISKS AND MAKE THEM MORE COMPLEX AND UNPREDICTABLE.

DESPITE THE HIGH STAKES, THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS USE REMAIN UNDEREXPLORED. EXPERTS HAVE RAISED QUESTIONS ABOUT WHETHER THE CONSEQUENCES OF "LIMITED" NUCLEAR USE WOULD TRULY BE CATASTROPHIC, OVERLOOKING THE FACT THAT A SINGLE SHIP STUCK IN THE SUEZ CANAL CAUSED MAJOR DISRUPTIONS TO GLOBAL TRADE, THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC SHATTERED SUPPLY CHAINS WORLDWIDE, AND THE FUKUSHIMA NUCLEAR ACCIDENT INFLICTED HUNDREDS OF BILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN LOSSES. IN THE SAME WAY, THE "MERE" ACT OF A COUNTRY GAINING A NUCLEAR WEAPON MAY LEAD TO FINANCIAL REPERCUSSIONS FOR THE GLOBAL ORDER AS A WHOLE. THIS MAY INCLUDE:

### DIVERSION OF GLOBAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES:

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION REDIRECTS SUBSTANTIAL CAPITAL TOWARD WARHEAD PRODUCTION, MISSILE DELIVERY SYSTEMS, URANIUM ENRICHMENT AND STRATEGIC DETERRENCE INFRASTRUCTURE. THE NINE NUCLEAR-ARMED NATIONS SPEND MANY TENS OF BILLIONS OF DOLLARS EACH YEAR MAINTAINING AND MODERNIZING THEIR NUCLEAR ARSENALS. GLOBAL MILITARY EXPENDITURE SURPASSED USD 2.4 TRILLION IN 2024, WITH NUCLEAR MODERNISATION PROGRAMMES CONSUMING A SIGNIFICANT SHARE. NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAMMES DIVERT PUBLIC FUNDS FROM HEALTH CARE, EDUCATION, DISASTER RELIEF AND OTHER VITAL SERVICES. SUCH ALLOCATION REDUCES FISCAL CAPACITY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION, SLOWING GLOBAL GDP GROWTH AND WIDENING DEVELOPMENTAL DISPARITIES BETWEEN ADVANCED AND EMERGING ECONOMIES.

## DISRUPTIONS THROUGH SANCTIONS AND ECONOMIC RESTRICTIONS:

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION FREQUENTLY TRIGGERS MULTILATERAL SANCTIONS, EXPORT CONTROLS AND RESTRICTIONS ON INTERNATIONAL BANKING SYSTEMS SUCH AS SWIFT ACCESS. THESE MEASURES DISRUPT GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS, REDUCE CROSS-BORDER CAPITAL FLOWS AND WEAKEN INVESTOR CONFIDENCE. FOR INSTANCE, SANCTIONS ON IRAN REDUCED OIL EXPORTS BY NEARLY 50% DURING PEAK ENFORCEMENT PERIODS, CONTRIBUTING TO VOLATILITY IN INTERNATIONAL ENERGY MARKETS AND INFLATIONARY PRESSURES GLOBALLY.

## INSTABILITY IN GLOBAL TRADE AND ENERGY MARKETS:

NUCLEAR-RELATED GEOPOLITICAL TENSIONS DISRUPT MARITIME TRADE CORRIDORS, INSURANCE MARKETS AND ENERGY SUPPLY CHAINS. STRATEGIC UNCERTAINTY IN REGIONS SUCH AS EAST ASIA AND THE MIDDLE EAST CONTRIBUTES TO FLUCTUATIONS IN CRUDE OIL AND LNG PRICES, INCREASING TRANSPORTATION AND MANUFACTURING COSTS WORLDWIDE. EVEN TEMPORARY DISRUPTIONS IN KEY SHIPPING ROUTES CAN DELAY BILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN DAILY TRADE FLOWS, INTENSIFYING INFLATION AND WEAKENING GLOBAL MARKET STABILITY.

## LONG-TERM ECONOMIC BURDEN AND RISK MANAGEMENT COSTS:

MAINTAINING NUCLEAR ARSENALS REQUIRES CONTINUOUS EXPENDITURE ON COMMAND-AND-CONTROL SYSTEMS, CYBERSECURITY, REACTOR SAFETY AND NON-PROLIFERATION ENFORCEMENT MECHANISMS. THE GLOBAL COST OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS MAINTENANCE EXCEEDS USD 80 BILLION ANNUALLY. ADDITIONALLY, NUCLEAR DISASTERS IMPOSE SEVERE ECONOMIC LIABILITIES; THE CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR DISASTER ALONE GENERATED HUNDREDS OF BILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN LONG-TERM CLEANUP, HEALTHCARE AND PRODUCTIVITY LOSSES, DEMONSTRATING THE ENDURING ECONOMIC REPERCUSSIONS OF NUCLEAR RISKS.

## ENVIRONMENTAL COSTS:

NUCLEAR WEAPONS ARE THE ONLY DEVICES EVER CREATED THAT HAVE THE CAPACITY TO DESTROY ALL COMPLEX LIFE FORMS ON EARTH. IT WOULD TAKE LESS THAN 0.1% OF THE EXPLOSIVE YIELD OF THE CURRENT GLOBAL NUCLEAR ARSENAL TO BRING ABOUT DEVASTATING AGRICULTURAL COLLAPSE AND WIDESPREAD FAMINE. THE SMOKE AND DUST FROM FEWER THAN 100 HIROSHIMA-SIZED NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS WOULD CAUSE AN ABRUPT DROP IN GLOBAL TEMPERATURES AND RAINFALL.

“CLIMATE CHANGE MAY BE THE GLOBAL POLICY ISSUE THAT HAS CAPTURED MOST ATTENTION IN THE LAST DECADE, BUT THE PROBLEM OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IS AT LEAST ITS EQUAL IN TERMS OF GRAVITY – AND MUCH MORE IMMEDIATE IN ITS POTENTIAL IMPACT.”

–INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION AND DISARMAMENT, 2009.

## CHALLENGES IN ADDRESSING THE ISSUE

THE GLOBAL NON-PROLIFERATION REGIME FACES SERIOUS CHALLENGES DUE TO RISING GEOPOLITICAL TENSIONS, UNEVEN ENFORCEMENT, AND RAPID TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT. ALTHOUGH THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY OVERSEES SAFEGUARDS ACROSS MORE THAN 180 STATES, MAJOR GAPS STILL EXIST IN MONITORING UNDECLARED NUCLEAR ACTIVITY. AFTER IRAQ'S SECRET NUCLEAR PROGRAMME WAS EXPOSED IN 1991, THE IAEA STRENGTHENED INSPECTIONS THROUGH THE ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL, YET OVER 20 COUNTRIES STILL HAVE NOT FULLY IMPLEMENTED THESE EXPANDED SAFEGUARDS, LIMITING EFFECTIVE VERIFICATION.

REGIONAL CONFLICTS CONTINUE TO DRIVE NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT. INDIA AND PAKISTAN TOGETHER POSSESS AN ESTIMATED 340 NUCLEAR WARHEADS, LARGELY DUE TO DECADES OF TERRITORIAL AND MILITARY RIVALRY. NORTH KOREA HAS ALSO SIGNIFICANTLY EXPANDED ITS FISSILE MATERIAL PRODUCTION DESPITE SANCTIONS, WHILE TENSIONS SURROUNDING IRAN'S URANIUM ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME CONTINUE TO CREATE CONCERNS OVER POTENTIAL WEAPONIZATION PATHWAYS. SIMULTANEOUSLY, THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT REVIVED FEARS THAT COUNTRIES MAY SEEK NUCLEAR DETERRENCE IF SECURITY GUARANTEES APPEAR UNRELIABLE.

ANOTHER MAJOR ISSUE IS THE IMBALANCE WITHIN THE NUCLEAR ORDER ITSELF. ACCORDING TO THE STOCKHOLM INTERNATIONAL PEACE RESEARCH INSTITUTE, NEARLY 12,100 NUCLEAR WARHEADS STILL EXIST GLOBALLY, WITH AROUND 90% CONTROLLED BY THE UNITED STATES AND RUSSIA. DESPITE COMMITMENTS TOWARD DISARMAMENT UNDER THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, NUCLEAR POWERS CONTINUE INVESTING BILLIONS INTO MODERNISATION PROGRAMMES INVOLVING HYPERSONIC MISSILES, TACTICAL WARHEADS, AND ADVANCED DELIVERY SYSTEMS. THIS WEAKENS THE CREDIBILITY OF GLOBAL DISARMAMENT EFFORTS AND CREATES ACCUSATIONS OF DOUBLE STANDARDS.

TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT HAS FURTHER COMPLICATED ENFORCEMENT. MODERN CENTRIFUGE TECHNOLOGY CAN ENRICH URANIUM FASTER AND IN SMALLER CONCEALED FACILITIES, WHILE CYBERATTACKS INCREASINGLY THREATEN NUCLEAR INFRASTRUCTURE AND SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS. AT THE SAME TIME, NUCLEAR TERRORISM REMAINS A PERSISTENT CONCERN, WITH THE IAEA RECORDING THOUSANDS OF INCIDENTS INVOLVING ILLICIT TRAFFICKING OR UNAUTHORIZED POSSESSION OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS SINCE THE 1990S.

ENFORCEMENT MECHANISMS ALSO REMAIN LIMITED BECAUSE THE IAEA CAN REPORT VIOLATIONS BUT CANNOT DIRECTLY PUNISH STATES. DECISIONS DEPEND HEAVILY ON THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL, WHERE POLITICAL DIVISIONS BETWEEN MAJOR POWERS OFTEN DELAY OR WEAKEN RESPONSES.

ULTIMATELY, THE NON-PROLIFERATION SYSTEM RESEMBLES A DAM DEVELOPING CRACKS

CONFLICT, AND TECHNOLOGICAL BREAKTHROUGHS OR POLITICAL RESERVES INCREASES THE PRESSURE ON A SYSTEM ALREADY STRUGGLING TO CONTAIN GLOBAL NUCLEAR RISKS.

## CONCLUSION

AS GLOBALIZATION ERASED THE CERTAINTY ONCE PROVIDED BY BORDERS, REGIONAL CONFLICTS EVOLVED INTO GLOBAL SECURITY THREATS CAPABLE OF ACCELERATING NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION AND INTENSIFYING THE ARMS RACE. TERRITORIAL DISPUTES, MILITARY RIVALRIES, AND STRATEGIC INSECURITIES HAVE REPEATEDLY PUSHED NATIONS TOWARD NUCLEAR DETERRENCE AS A MEANS OF SURVIVAL. FROM SOUTH ASIA TO THE KOREAN PENINSULA AND FROM EASTERN EUROPE TO THE MIDDLE EAST, UNRESOLVED BORDER CONFLICTS CONTINUE TO FUEL MISTRUST, MILITARY EXPANSION, AND THE MODERNISATION OF NUCLEAR ARSENALS.

TODAY, THE WORLD POSSESSES MORE THAN 12,000 NUCLEAR WARHEADS, MANY CAPABLE OF CAUSING DESTRUCTION ON A SCALE UNIMAGINABLE A CENTURY AGO. THE DANGER LIES NOT ONLY IN THEIR EXISTENCE, BUT IN THE GROWING NORMALIZATION OF NUCLEAR DETERRENCE AS A PERMANENT SECURITY STRATEGY. AS GEOPOLITICAL TENSIONS RISE AND DIPLOMATIC COOPERATION WEAKENS, THE RISK OF ESCALATION, WHETHER INTENTIONAL, ACCIDENTAL, OR THROUGH MISCALCULATION, MOVES HUMANITY CLOSER TO POTENTIAL DOOM.

THE TASK BEFORE DELEGATES IS THEREFORE NOT SIMPLY TO CONDEMN PROLIFERATION, BUT TO CONFRONT THE UNDERLYING DRIVERS THAT SUSTAIN IT: INSECURITY, POLITICAL INSTABILITY, UNRESOLVED TERRITORIAL DISPUTES, AND THE ABSENCE OF MUTUAL TRUST BETWEEN STATES. DELEGATES MUST WORK TOWARD STRENGTHENING ARMS CONTROL FRAMEWORKS, ENHANCING VERIFICATION MECHANISMS, PROMOTING DIPLOMATIC DIALOGUE, AND ENSURING THAT INTERNATIONAL SECURITY IS BASED ON COOPERATION RATHER THAN FEAR.

THE FUTURE OF GLOBAL STABILITY WILL NOT BE DECIDED BY THE SIZE OF NUCLEAR STOCKPILES, BUT BY THE WILLINGNESS OF NATIONS TO CHOOSE DIPLOMACY OVER DESTRUCTION. IN AN AGE WHERE WEAPONS CAN CROSS CONTINENTS WITHIN MINUTES, HUMANITY CANNOT AFFORD LEADERSHIP GUIDED SOLELY BY RIVALRY AND SUSPICION. "THE UNLEASHED POWER OF THE ATOM HAS CHANGED EVERYTHING SAVE OUR MODES OF THINKING, AND THUS WE DRIFT TOWARD UNPARALLELED CATASTROPHE." ~ ALBERT EINSTEIN

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