



GCBMUN  
2024

# GUÍA ACADEMICA

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## DISEC

**PRESIDENTE**

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**VICE-PRESIDENTE**

MARIANA  
MARTÍNEZ



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# WELCOME LETTER

## UNITED NATIONS MODEL GCBMUN XXIV

Dear delegates,

Receive a cordial greeting from your dais: your president, Mariana Martínez, and your co-president Juan Diego Chaves. We are very happy to know that you are going to participate in the DISEC committee in this twenty-third edition of the GCBMUN. We warmly welcome you to the Disarmament & International Security Committee, an intermediate level committee in which we hope you will develop in the best possible way. We, as the dais, will do our best to ensure that you have a wonderful and unforgettable experience during committee days. You will always have our support and will be accompanied by us throughout the entire process.

We hope that during your model experience, you seek aiming to achieve international wealth and global peace in constructive solutions, make important decisions regarding the issues the world is experiencing, and develop yourself into a world leader for the future. In the committee, we will discuss the economical and ethical implications of the PAROS treaty, as well as the humanitarian law implication on the disarmament in the Korean Peninsula. We wish you all the best in these three days of debating and expect very grateful and incredible ideas to solve these global concerns.

Additionally, we hope you enjoy this beautiful project and feel motivated to attend many more. To manage to immerse yourselves in a world different from the one you are used to seeing and living. It is not only a delegation, it is also an experience where you will use and develop your virtues and leadership skills, demonstrating what you are capable of.

Remember that you can always count on your dais for anything you need. Therefore, do not hesitate to contact us in case of any doubts or comments. We are here to support you at all times. Once again, we have great expectations about your development during the committee and hope you learn and enjoy. Without further information, we thank you for choosing our committee. Welcome to DISEC!

# HISTORY OF THE COMMITTEE

The First committee of the General Assembly, also known as the Disarmament and International Security (DISEC) was founded when the charter of the UN was signed in 1945. It was created with a specific set of purposes regarding security and political issues that different regions had after World War II, therefore, issues regarding peace and security have always been taken into account in DISEC. Is one of the main committees of the General Assembly and it produces decisions, within the basis of the Charter of the United Nations, advocating world peace, on the general principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security, disarmament and the regulation of armaments. (DISEC, s. f.)

According to the UN Charter, the purpose of DISEC in the General Assembly is to establish “general principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security, including the principles governing disarmament and the regulation of armaments”. Membership in DISEC is extended to all 193 members of the UN, in accordance with its mission to have purposeful conversations and resolutions.

DISEC is a committee that collaborates closely with the Conference on Disarmament and the UN Disarmament Commission. Although, DISEC is unable to interfere directly with the Security Council during the decision-making process, it does have the choice or function to suggest that particular subjects be reviewed for the Security Council's consideration and review.



Image 2: FEATURE: The UN General Assembly's First Committee - disarmament and international security issues. (2018, 15 octubre). UN News. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2012/12/429112-feature-un-general-assemblys-first-committee-disarmament-and-international>

# COMMITTEE SPECIFICATIONS

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For the delegates

This committee will be carried out as a medium experience level in the XXIII GCBMUN edition. This means that you, as delegates, have the opportunity to develop yourself in the best way possible and, show how you have improved your leadership and resolute skills. You should show up prepared for the debate and demonstrate a deep understanding of your nation's ideals and the leaders' perspectives on the problems under discussion. There should also be a moderated or high level of argumentation in each statement. Finally, it is important for you to be able to manage the various problems that could cause the committee's course to change, looking for the best ways to get to a solution.

For topics A and B

It is important to understand that DISEC priority is to ensure the global peace and reduce the possible massive armed conflicts that may occur between countries. To protect the global community and environments, by preventing arms races and developing and promoting policies and measures to maintain and restore international security.

The documents

The procedure stated in the GCBMUN XXIII handbook will be followed by DISEC. The requested papers will be the following:

An opening speech for topic A and another one for topic B, each with a duration of 1 minute and 30 seconds.

And, a position paper for each topic.

The dais will be helping the delegates through workshops before the UN model, for better understanding of the topics and further information needed.

# GENERAL MISSION

The principal goals of the committee will be to uphold world peace and find solutions to any security administration's problems. Delegates should be worried about the issue of various current armed conflicts and learn more about the promotion, establishment, and future maintenance of world peace. (UN General Assembly - First Committee - Disarmament and International Security, n.d.)

Furthermore, the working methods of the Committee are under seven thematic clusters, which are the turning sphere of the discussion on the committee.

The thematic clusters are:

- The first thematic cluster: nuclear weapons.
- Second thematic cluster: Other weapons of mass of destruction.
- Third thematic cluster: Outer space disarmament aspects.
- Fourth thematic cluster: Conventional weapons.
- Fifth thematic cluster: Regional disarmament and security.
- Sixth thematic cluster: Other disarmament measures and international security.
- Seventh thematic cluster: Disarmament machinery

The First Committee sessions are structured into three distinctive stages:

1. General Debate.
2. Thematic discussion.
3. Action on drafts.

(United Nations, s. f.)



Image 3: DISEC – IISP MUN. (s. f.). <https://iispmun.com/committees/disec/>

# TOPIC A

## THE HUMANITARIAN IMPLICATIONS OF DISARMAMENT IN THE KOREAN PENINSULA

## INTERNATIONAL LAW ON THE



Image 4: Nah, L. T., & Nah, L. T. (2023, December 7). Short-term nuclear stability on the Korean Peninsula | East Asia Forum. Asia Forum. <https://eastasiaforum.org/2020/10/10/short-term-nuclear-stability-on-the-korean-peninsula/>



# INTRODUCTION

“While aid workers serving conflict-affected civilian populations depend on a set of laws to protect them, some warring parties violate these global agreements, from targeting hospitals and schools to blocking aid workers from reaching civilians with lifesaving goods and services.” (Explainer: What Is International Humanitarian Law?, 2024)

By 1864 the first Geneva Convention was signed by 16 European countries. In that same committee, the International Humanitarian Law was created, focused on the protection of civilians and those who can no longer fight in an armed conflict. (The Geneva Conventions and Their Commentaries, 2023)

The laws represent “the very minimum rules to preserve humanity in some of the worst situations known to mankind,” Mr Mongelard said, noting that the rules of war apply the moment an armed conflict has begun.

Nowadays, developed countries have a great advantage in technology and weapons, which gives these governments the power in the world. Unfortunately, if the power is not in the right hands it can lead to a huge catastrophe for humanity. Linked with that, the importance of preserving peace and security is fundamental for the world.

Increasing tensions throughout the Korean Peninsula mark the beginning of the 2024 new year as North Korea and South Korea adopt a policy of deterrence as a result of massive military buildup throughout the previous year. This has become a global concern; due to the immense and negative consequences it can bring.

Despite the peaceful agreements between North Korea, South Korea and United States. All delegations have been improving the designs and technology of their nuclear weapons, in the same way increasing humanity and infrastructure risks of security. North Korea uses the same justification for its actions as the US, and the other declared nuclear-armed states. Just like Washington, Pyongyang says it is committed to disarmament, but argues the security threats it faces mean it needs nuclear weapons to deter its enemies. (Nuclear Tensions on the Korean Peninsula Set to Worsen in 2024, n.d.)



Image 5: Kwon, J., & Reals, T. (2022, May 10). South Korea President Yoon Suk Yeol uses inauguration speech to hint at bid to draw Kim Jong Un back to nuclear talks. CBS News. <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/south-korea-north-korea-president-yoon-suk-yeol-inauguration-kim-jong-un-us/>

# HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION OF THE TOPIC

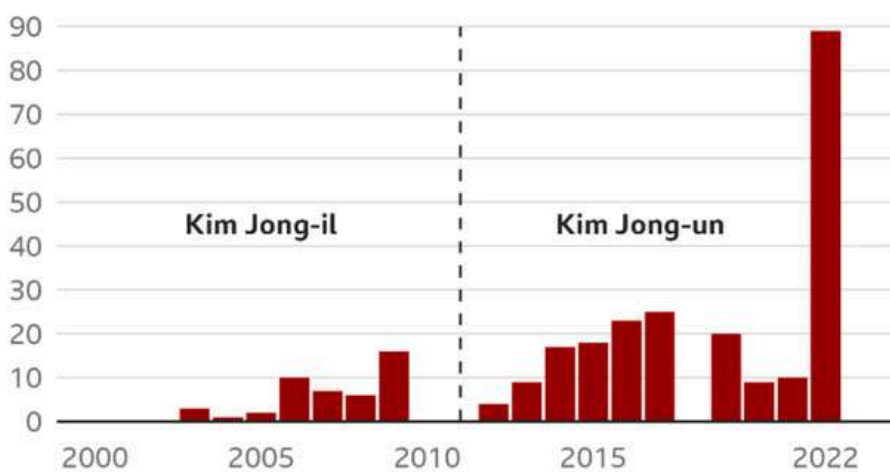
On April 27, 2018, the Panmunjom Declaration was signed, as a representation of peace, prosperity and reunification in the Korean peninsula. The two countries agreed to cooperate on officially ending the Korean War, beginning a new era of peace and national reconciliation, and improve inter-Korean communications and relations. Each side also pledged to "make active efforts to see the support and cooperation of the international community for the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula." (Panmunjom Declaration | Korean Legal Studies, n.d.) The Panmunjom Declaration was submitted to the United Nations General Assembly on September 6, 2018.

After this, it would have been thought that there would be a long-term of agreements and peace between North Korea and South Korea. Lamentably, since the collapse of diplomacy in 2019, Pyongyang has rapidly attempted to ramp up its military capabilities which include: expanding their military personnel, improving its technological weapons systems and expanding its nuclear and missile arsenals.

North Korea has doubled down on its nuclear force development efforts. The hallmarks of its ongoing nuclear modernization program centre on tactical nuclear weapons, improved responsiveness, and force dispersal. The two latter components represent Pyongyang's chosen path to a broadly survivable nuclear deterrent, designed to be robust against South Korea's conventional counterforce strategy.

## North Korea missile launches peak in 2022

Number of missiles launched by North Korean forces, by year



Source: South Korean and Japanese defence ministries (data to 2 Jan 2023) **B B C**

Image 6: BBC News. (2023, September 5). North Korea: What missiles does it have? <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-41174689>

# HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION OF THE TOPIC

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The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has significantly increased its missile launch activities since 2022, including more than 100 launches using ballistic missile technology, in violation of the relevant Security Council resolutions.

Apart from launching over forty missile tests in the previous year, North Korea also said in 2022 that it would implement a new law that would make its nuclear weapons status "irreversible," forbid discussions on denuclearization, and, most concerningly, permit the use of nuclear weapons in self-defence.

Following prior remarks by South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol suggesting Seoul would build its own nuclear weapons, the US and South Korea decided in April of 2023 to step up their collaboration on nuclear war plans. President Biden threatened to topple the North Korean leadership if it used nuclear weapons along with the accord announcement.

United States and South Korea joint military drills with nuclear-capable aircraft have already taken place in 2023. Pyongyang has also increased its rhetoric over nuclear weapons, accusing Washington and Seoul of pushing the two nations closer to nuclear war.

The diversity of North Korea's nuclear forces reached unbelievable levels at the beginning of 2024. Pyongyang has indicated that it is actively tracking everything from lake-submerged, short-range ballistic missile launchers to fixed silos to an autonomous, underwater, nuclear-armed torpedo to rail-mobile missile launchers to submarine-launched cruise missiles. (Missiles, Preemption, and the Risk of Nuclear War on the Korean Peninsula | Arms Control Association, n.d.)

Seoul has temporarily and partially suspended the 2018 Comprehensive Military Agreement with Pyongyang that was designed to prevent rampant military buildup and accidental skirmishes between both countries. The National Security Council stated that the suspension would trigger the restoration of a series of measures along the border between South Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to prevent further aggression and maintain some regional stability.

The Security Council, DISEC and many other committees focused on international peace and security are concerned because of the rising tensions in the Korean Peninsula. International Humanitarian Law involvement is fundamental to preserve the peace and protection of the civilians in that territory.

# CURRENT SITUATION

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In 2024 New Year's Leader Kim Yong Un stated that inter-Korean relations have become a "relationship between two hostile countries and two belligerents at war" ultimately [rescinding](#) North Korea's long-standing policy of reunification. He blamed the increasing military buildup of South Korea and, particularly, the United States, as he emphasized that "because of reckless moves by the enemies to invade us... war can [break out](#) at any moment."

Is important to take a step back into February 2023, when Pyongyang reveals its first solid-fuel intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM). Known as the Hwasong-18, the missile has a potential maximum range of 15,000 km, which could allow it to reach anywhere on the United States mainland. This test triggered condemnation from the United States, Japan, and South Korea, while China called in urgency a dialogue with North Korea.

Kim Jong-un "observed the test launch on the ground" with the aim of "sending a warning" to Washington and its allies. "The launched missile reached a maximum apogee altitude of 6,518.2 kilometres, traveled a distance of 1,002.3 kilometres for 4,415 seconds (about 73 minutes), and landed precisely in the target area in the open waters of the South Sea. This (name given to the Sea of Japan in both Koreas)", reports the state agency KCNA. This ballistic missile can affect almost every part of the world with an exception of the southern part of South America

The following image shows North Korea's successful 2023 testing, which clearly violates the United Nations Security Council resolutions. However, Pyongyang insists that its country needs to develop its weapons, including nuclear missiles, to defend itself against the threat of an attack from the United States and its allies.

Since last year, North Korea has performed about 100 ballistic missile tests in what experts say is an attempt to enlarge its arsenal and wrest greater US concessions. The US and South Korea have responded by expanding their military drills and increased the temporary deployments of strategic US assets, such as: aircraft carriers, nuclear-capable bombers and a nuclear-armed submarine in and near South Korea. (Kim & Yamaguchi, 2023)

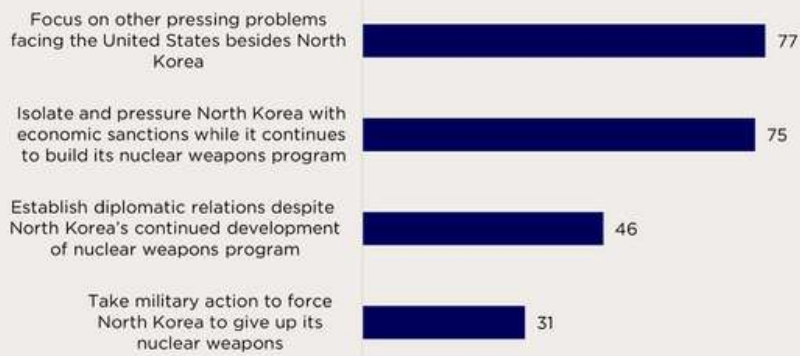
Du Hyeogn Cha, an analyst at Seoul's Asan Institute for Policy Studies, said North Korea is expected to continue weapons testing to pressure the United States to change its policy on the North. "No matter whether the Biden administration stays or the White House after the presidential election next year, North Korea will raise tensions on the Korean Peninsula to bring change of the US. government's policy on it," Cha said.

In answer, John Aquilino, commander of the United States Indo-Pacific Command, expressed concerns about North Korea's increasing missile capabilities. But he said that the United States, Japan and South Korea are working more closely than ever and that they were even ready for the Hwasong-18 launch and had mobilized their missile defense ships forward earlier the next week

# CURRENT SITUATION

## Action on North Korea's Nuclear Program

Please tell me whether you would support or oppose each of the following kinds of US actions in its relations with North Korea: (% support)



July 15-August 1, 2022 | n=3,106  
CHICAGO COUNCIL SURVEYS

Image 7: Cyan, I. (n.d.). North Korea tested its latest Hwasong-18 IAS GYAN. IAS GYAN. <https://www.iasgyan.in/daily-current-affairs/hwasong-18>

Moreover, the relations between North Korea and Russia seem to be in an alliance. On September 13, 2023 Kim Yong Un makes a foreign visit to Russia president Vladimir Putin in which he demonstrates his willingness to help develop North Korea's space technology and assist Pyongyang's attempt to launch a satellite, even though it would violate UN Security Council restrictions again. Two months after the meeting, North Korea successfully launches a military reconnaissance satellite after two failed attempts, leading experts to suspect Russian assistance.

Days after the successful North Korean launch of a spy satellite into orbit, South Korea decides to take action and suspends part of the inter-Korean Comprehensive Military Agreement (CMA), the 2018 agreement that established measures to reduce border tensions and reduce the risk of accidental clashes. Following this announcement, there is a chance that the Korean Armistice may dissolve, leading on international security as a concern.

In the other hand, tensions between China and North Korea have increased significantly. North Korea did not receive the help Pyongyang desired from China to develop nuclear weapons. Beijing was concerned that North Korea's aggression may lead on a peninsular conflict that would have an impact on China. For the same reason, there was an additional concern over North Korean nuclear weapon threats against China itself, Beijing has refrained from taking a strong stance but has supported UN Security Council sanctions against North Korea's nuclear weapon tests.

During a year-end plenary party meeting, Kim announces the government's plans to abandon reunification efforts with South Korea, calling the idea "impossible" and labeling South Korea an "enemy." The speech marks a marked departure from the views of his father, Kim Jong Il, and his grandfather, Kim Il Sung, whose founding principles drove the philosophy of reunification. (Albert, 2018)

As an answer, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol [declared](#) in his New Year's Day address that Seoul would strengthen its own military's preemptive capabilities, missile defense systems and retaliatory measures to prevent possible aggression and hostility from its neighbor to the north.

# CURRENT SITUATION

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Important documents:

The 1st of July, 1968 the NPT (Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty) was signed by most of the international community, with an exception of India, Israel, Pakistan and South Sudan. This one was created with the objective to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, by advocating for cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to remark the goal of nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament.

Back in the day, on 1992 based on the NPT and looking forward to maintain the stability and peace in Korea, the Joint Declaration of the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula was signed. Under this declaration, South and North Korea agreed not to test, manufacture, produce, receive, possess, store, deploy, or use nuclear weapons; to use nuclear energy solely for peaceful purposes; and not to possess facilities for nuclear reprocessing and uranium enrichment. (NTI, 2024)

According to the treaty, the two sides will conduct inspections of locations chosen by the other side and mutually agreed upon by both sides. The two Koreas also established the South-North Joint Nuclear Control Commission (JNCC) as an implementing mechanism of the Joint Denuclearization Declaration.

Moreover, in 1994 North Korea agreed with the United States to end its illicit plutonium weapons program in exchange for aid to build their light-water reactors and give some provisions of heavy oil.

Despite the fact that North Korea became a state party to the NPT in 1985, later in 2003 it announced that it would no longer be bound by the treaty. After that, the international concern became even greater about the nuclear program held by North Korea and its plans. Because of that, in the 19th of September, 2005 in Beijing the famous "Six-Party Joint Statement" occurred. This was a meeting held by the delegations of: South Korea, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, People's Republic of China, Russian Federation, Japan and United States. After serious and practical talks about the concern of the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula they got to 6 resolute clauses. But in summary, North Korea agreed to abandon all existing nuclear weapons and nuclear programs and return to the NPT in exchange for security guarantees, economic benefits, and energy assistance.

But it did not take long for the UN Security Council to get involved. From 2006 to 2017 in several occasions North Korea did not comply with the agreements stated before about the ballistic and nuclear weapons.

# CURRENT SITUATION

Even though the constant violations of resolutions from North Korea part, in the year 2018 Kim Young Un actions seem to take a different course. The same year that the Panmunjom Declaration was signed by the both Korea´s, the Singapore Summit Joint Statement was signed too, which talks about the new U.S.–DPRK relations will contribute to the peace and prosperity of the Korean Peninsula and of the world, and recognizing that mutual confidence building can promote the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. (Staff, 2021)

Although, nowadays this 2024 any resolution and peace agreement has been violated. The nuclear and ballistic armament has been increasing from almost every delegation and the diplomatic tensions in the Korean Peninsula are raising on an incredible way leading on massive military buildup. The UN has to get involved and assure the security and peace of the Korean and the world civilians. The prevention of a nuclear war is fundamental to maintain the world and life.

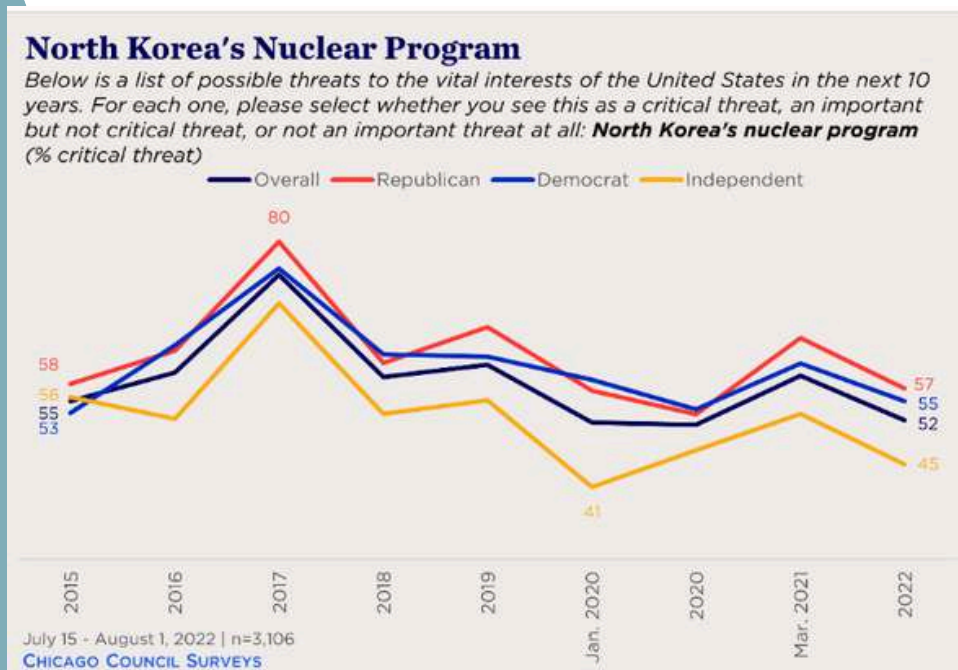


Image 8: Friedhoff, K. (2022, November 6). *Americans focused elsewhere as tensions rise on the Korean peninsula*. Chicago Council on Global Affairs.

# ANALYSIS

Nuclear-armed states are holding the rest of the world hostage. The wide-ranging and catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons mean that regardless of who owns them, nuclear weapons threaten the security - and the very existence - of all states, and all people. (*Nuclear Tensions Keep Rising on Korean Peninsula*, n.d.)

This problematic has created different perspectives and ideas of resolutions from the international community. As an example, some consider that South Korea and the United States should recognize that even as North Korea postures its own forces offensively and irresponsibly, some of their own policies and military plans exacerbate the risk of escalation within a conventional war and the risk of nuclear conflict. Unilateral policy change by South Korea and the United States could reduce these risks and lead to a long-term adjustment in North Korean threat perceptions that could be propitious for an eventual return to negotiated, cooperative measures like the 2018 agreement.

Second, the United States can eliminate a prominent source of use-it-or-lose-it pressures for North Korea. Under the Trump administration, the United States publicized a counterproductive effort to seek “left-of-launch” techniques that could disable North Korean missiles prior to their launch in a conflict. Although the precise nature of such capabilities remains obscure and perhaps exaggerated, North Korea is likely to take this seriously. The Biden administration’s 2022 Missile Defense Review retains a commitment to “comprehensive missile defeat,” which John Plumb, U.S. assistant secretary of defense for space policy, clarified involves a continued reliance on measures to left and right of launch.<sup>[1]</sup> This comprehensive approach includes non-kinetic measures, such as possible offensive cyberattacks on North Korean nuclear command and control. (*Missiles, Preemption, and the Risk of Nuclear War on the Korean Peninsula* | Arms Control Association, n.d.)

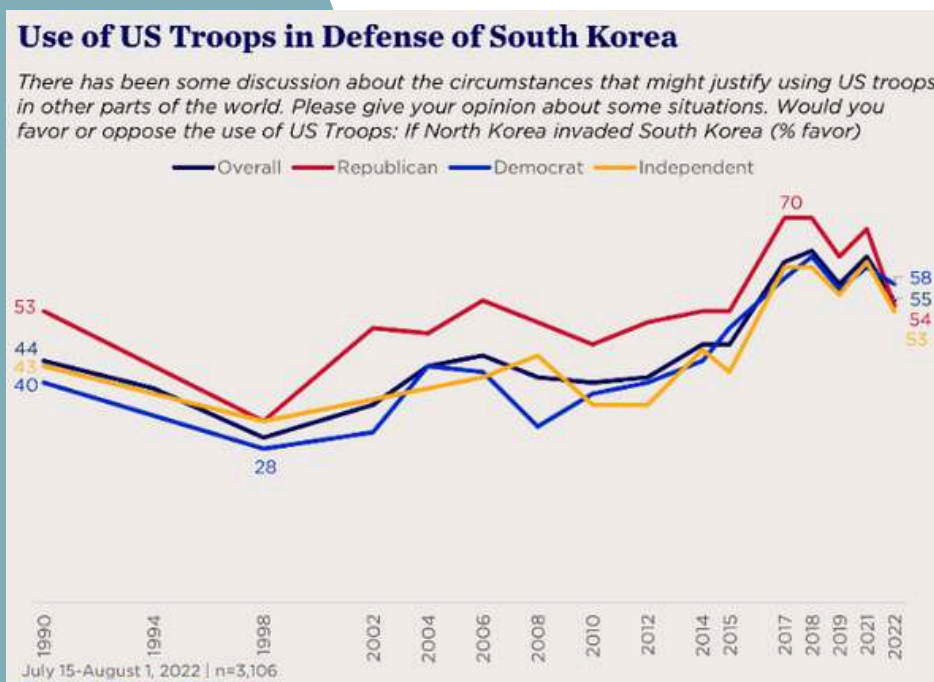


Image 9: (Friedhoff, Americans focused elsewhere as tensions rise on the Korean Peninsula 2022)



# ANALYSIS

Some delegations seem to be in agreement, because they would not object to the US deployment of nuclear weapons in South Korea "as long as they remain under U.S. control," said David Maxwell, vice president of the Center for Asia Pacific Strategy. "It is only when South Korea develops its own nuclear weapons, would it potentially kick off an arms race in the region."

Two such measures are easily identified. First, South Korea's current emphasis on preemption as a matter of its core national defense strategy for dealing with North Korea contributes to escalation risks. To preserve deterrence while reducing escalation pressures, South Korea could adapt its strategic communications towards North Korea to emphasize that it would not seek to attack their nuclear forces massively and create a war.

In the other hand, this could be a great risk due to the fact that nothing assures that serious and peaceful talks can make an agreement and get to a denuclearization in both sides of the Peninsula. Well, it is important to outstand that in the past years' leader Kim Young Un has demonstrated not to be characterized as a man of word. The United States, China and South Korea consider they must be armed to put pressure on North Korea and show they are prepared to any action the government decides to take.

"Governments, civil society and communities need to work together to find lasting solutions to conflict and insecurity. Strengthening the rule of law and promoting human rights is key to this process, as is reducing the flow of illicit arms, combating corruption, and ensuring inclusive participation at all times." (Martin, 2023) That is what the Sustainable Development Goal #16 of the United Nations states.

The importance to protect those who are innocent and most at risk is what will make the future generations to seek for the world peace and safety.

Traumatized child, millions of deaths, wars, infrastructure and ecological side effects are some of the tons of possible negative consequences that a nuclear war in the Korean Peninsula can bring. Why to repeat the history? The Korean war was a terrible massacre decades ago which only left sadness, poorness and insecurity. Thanks to the international entities and UN delegates who are looking for world peace, safe and stability the goal of "Peace, justice and strong institutions" must be the guidance to prevent this conflict.



Image 10: Friedhoff, K. (2022, November 6). Americans focused elsewhere as tensions rise on the Korean peninsula.

# PREPARATION QUESTIONS

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1. How can the IHL (International Humanitarian Law) be implemented on the Korean Peninsula?
2. What actions can assure the international safety?
3. Does your delegation have nuclear armament? In which ways does your nuclear program function? Does the international community have access to it?
4. Is your delegation under the Non-Nuclear Proliferation Treaty? Does your delegation really support it?
5. Does your delegation give any type of aid to either South or North Korea? Which type of aid?
6. Does your delegation consider the disarmament in the Korean Peninsula is primordial?
7. How can the committee prevent a nuclear war?
8. How does your delegation protect civilians from armed conflicts?

# TOPIC B

## THE ECONOMICAL AND ETHICAL IMPLICATIONS ON THE PAROS (PREVENTION OF ARMS RACE IN OUTER SPACE) TREATY



Image 1: Ipsntuo. (2021, 1 diciembre). Proposed Prevention of an Arms Race in Space (PAROS) Treaty: A Flaccid Promise in Light of the Intervention of Private Players? <https://ipsntuo.com/2021/12/proposed-prevention-of-an-arms-race-in-space-paros-treaty-a-flaccid-promise-in-light-of-the-intervention-of-private-players/>

# INTRODUCTION

The Prevention of Arms Race in Outer Space Treaty was first discussed in the UN in 1967, aiming to maintain peace and protect the moon and other celestial bodies. Although it has not been signed yet as a formal treaty, it has been a topic of relevant discussion through the last decades in the UN.

In addition, it is already in the resolutions of the General Assembly, all coming from The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS). But, has this resolution truly been respected by all the delegations?

Recently, there might be an arms race in space as fighting rages on Earth. The US ambassador issued a warning on May 30 that Russia had placed a "weapon into orbit," a claim that Russia's deputy foreign minister, Sergey Ryabkov, dismissed as "fake news." But all these have led both nations trying to launch nuclear weapons into outer space. (Olumba & Oyewole, n.d.)

Although PAROS specified "not to place in orbit around the Earth any objects carrying nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction," 114 nations have officially ratified the convention, including superpowers in space including the US, Russia, China, India and France.

But that is just an example of what is currently happening, with the advance in technology nowadays most delegations who have the economical resources are taking advantage of their power, which can lead on a catastrophe in outer space. It is totally unacceptable that many nations are trying to violate General Assembly resolutions, not taking into consideration the global risks it may bring. That is the reason why it is important for the committee to make an ethical and economical revision in the PAROS treaty, a renewal that understand every delegation perspective and conditions, and having justice, peace and development as main goals.



Image 12: McCallum, B. S. (2022, April 19). US bans anti-satellite missile tests. <https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-61151141>

# HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION OF THE TOPIC

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Fifty-seven years ago, through the Outer Space Treaty, the United States and the Soviet Union agreed to codify a fundamental nuclear taboo: nuclear weapons shall not be stationed in orbit or elsewhere in outer space. But there is growing concern that Russia is working on an orbiting anti-satellite (ASAT) weapons system involving a nuclear explosive device that would, if deployed, violate the treaty, undermine space security, and worsen the technological and nuclear arms race. (Keeping Outer Space Nuclear Weapons Free | Arms Control Association, n.d.)

Nowadays, the US counts with a space-based missile defense and Russia has launched ASAT weapons. Many countries have shown their interest on militarizing outer space, but do not take into consideration its further consequences. Delegations such as China already have invested on kinetic weapons, which if they have the purpose of being launched on outer space can cause an orbital bombardment, this could have even worst consequences that nuclear weapons and totally destroy life on Earth.

Until which point is it right that a country has so much power that includes the whole worlds' life?

Right now, the global concern is about the peace disruption that an arms race can cause within its impacts on the world. In addition, majority of delegations would be in a huge disadvantage in comparison to major powers to defend themselves, with this not only peace but international relationships would also seem disrupted.



Image 12: (*Orbital Bombardment* by BrokenTeapotStudios on DeviantArt, 2023)

# CURRENT SITUATION

On 15 February, the White House communicated that the US had uncovered evidence of Russia developing an ASAT weapon system that involves nuclear explosive devices, which is a violation of the Outer Space Treaty, to which 130 countries signed up to, including Russia.

Past April 24, General Assembly met due to a sparked veto by the Russian delegation because of blocking a draft resolution that aimed to prevent an arms race in outer space in all its aspects, including through the obligation not to place in Earth's orbit any objects carrying weapons of mass destruction. The draft resolution — introduced by the United States and Japan and co-sponsored by over 60 nations — received 13 votes in favour, with China abstaining. (*'Outer Space Should Never Be an Arena for Militarization', Delegate Tells General Assembly Debate on Moscow's Veto of Resolution Aimed at Curbing Arms Race | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases, 2024*)

Therefore, the US has declared its opposition to the outer space weaponization, the vice president of the US Kamala Harris stated that "such tests were reckless". In addition, the US, China, India and Russia have all carried them out and have generated space debris in doing so.

The Pakistani speaker expressed its concern, due to the fact that it has been about more than 40 years, and no progress has been made on the treaty to stop a weapons race in space. He emphasized that "threats to security in and from outer space have escalated sharply in recent years" and issued a warning against the spreading of wars from Earth, the sea, and the air into space. The installation of weaponry in space and its growing portrayal in the military doctrines of major Powers as the new frontier for fighting wars are clear indications of this.

In the other hand, India military in 2022 launched their first ASAT weapon. The prime minister, Narendra Modi, assured that "It will make India stronger, even more secure and will further peace and harmony." But is this reality? So far, the only countries that have shown interest on satellite defense and outer space weapons are major powers; with these actions, the countries are getting more power over the world than what they had before, leading on a huge gap between the powerful countries and the developing ones.

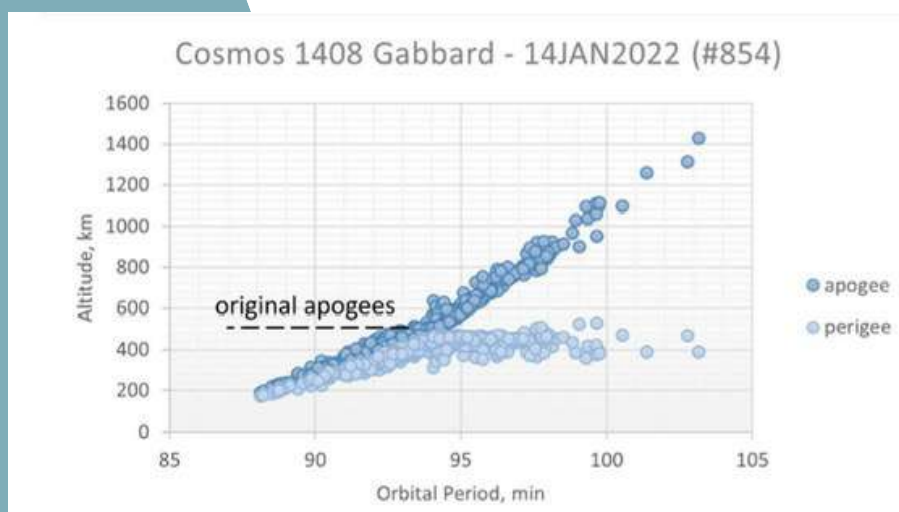


Image 13: Amanda. (2022, January 26). *New Analysis of Russian ASAT Provides Clues to Weapon's Trajectory, Says Risk From Debris Could Grow*. Air & Space Forces Magazine. <https://www.airandspaceforces.com/new-analysis-of-russian-asat-suggests-weapons-trajectory-says-risk-from-debris-could-grow/>

# CURRENT SITUATION

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In the graph above, it shows the distance and trajectory that the Russian ASAT systems pass by. Apogee refers to the point where the moon's orbit is farthest from the Earth, while its closest point is called perigee. With this, we can evidence how in danger the Earth is due to the closeness of the missiles to our planet.

Furthermore, ASAT tests are well known because of their production of debris -which are large volumes of small, difficult to track various objects, from minuscule flecks of paint to massive chunks of metal around space. This can cause many damages, every piece of debris becomes an obstacle in the orbital "highway", making it difficult for functional satellites to avoid collisions. If a collision was to happen, many satellites, rockets and special stations may suffer damages that can alter the communication with Earth.

# ANALYSIS

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Delegations who are working on outer space forces, justify themselves by declaring is in case of defense needed. But is this the real reason? Only major powers have the monetary resources to invest on this type of weapons, and only these countries are the ones who are developing ASAT systems. So far, the U.S seems to be the only one to outstand the importance of maintaining global peace and appealing to the PAROS treaty.

In addition, African countries have also shown their concern about maintaining the space security. In an Open-ended Working Group the African nations stated that “Reducing Space Threats through Norms, Rules and Principles of Responsible Behaviors” (Erickson et al., 2023)

African region is taking into consideration the ethical importance of following the treaty, due to the fact that is a pact of responsibility and international cooperation in order to not having an arms race in outer space.

Militarization of space can have the following impacts:

- High economic costs: massive investments should be required, which can lead on taking monetary resources from other critical areas, such as education and healthcare.
- Increasing gap between developing and developed countries: Not every delegation may have access and resources to have a participation under a arms race in outer space, which is a huge disadvantage and makes most of the countries would be defenseless.
- Debris production: Debris bring a big risk to either military and civilians’ satellites and an obstruction to future space explorations.
- Ethical concerns: Not only a treaty would be violated, but also it would increase peace disruption.
- Arms regulation challenges: measures and norms may be difficult to apply in space, making it more complicated to prevent

As observed, the consequences evaluated are not positive and just promote global disruption, profligate monetary resources and contaminate the space. Those are the reasons why it is fundamental for the committee to get to a treaty in which all of these aspects are taken into consideration and achieve to prevent an arms race between major powers that can end in a disastrous way.



# PREPARATION QUESTIONS

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1. What is your delegation's position regarding the use of weapons in space?
2. Does your delegation have any ASAT system or other type of outer space weapons?
3. Did your delegation participate in the resolution of the PAROS treaty (1967)?
4. Why is it important to maintain peace that space is unarmed?
5. What changes would your delegation make to the resolutions of the PAROS treaty?
6. Does your delegation have the economic resources to invest on outer space arms? If so, has it done it yet?

Why ethical implications would be against an arms race in outer space?

# GLOSSARY

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1. Geneva Convention: Protocols form the basis of modern international humanitarian law, setting out how soldiers and civilians should be treated during war. (The British Red Cross and the Geneva Conventions, n.d.)
2. International Humanitarian Law: International humanitarian law (IHL) is a set of rules that seek to limit the effects of armed conflict. It lays out the responsibilities of states and non-state armed groups during an armed conflict. (International Humanitarian Law, n.d.)
3. Nuclear weapon: A bomb or missile that uses nuclear energy to cause an explosion. (Oxford Languages and Google - English | Oxford Languages, 2024)
4. Disarmament: the reduction or withdrawal of military forces and weapons. (Oxford Languages and Google - English | Oxford Languages, 2024)
5. Ballistic missile: A rocket-propelled self-guided strategic-weapons system that follows a ballistic trajectory to deliver a payload from its launch site to a predetermined target. (The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2014)
6. Orbital bombardment: A warhead delivery system that uses a low Earth orbit towards its target destination. Wookieepedia, C. T. (n.d.). Orbital bombardment. Wookieepedia. [https://starwars.fandom.com/wiki/Orbital\\_bombardment](https://starwars.fandom.com/wiki/Orbital_bombardment)
7. ASAT: Space weapons designed to incapacitate or destroy satellites for strategic or tactical purposes. Smith (2022)

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