

According to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Charter, the role of the committee is “the maintenance of international peace and security.¹” This responsibility demands that the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea’s (DPRK) nuclear program and possession of weapons of mass destruction be at the forefront of the Security Council’s agenda.

The danger of the DPRK’s or North Korea’s nuclear capability transcends that of any nuclear threat the UN has faced before. Although there are obvious similarities between the current situation and that of the nuclear state of Iran (before the institution of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action²), the situation in North Korea differs in a multitude of ways.

Due to the nature of the Kim dynasty, North Korea does not fear the reality of firm textile and energy sanctions adopted by the UNSC in both resolutions 2371³ and 2375⁴. These sanctions substantially minimize North Korea’s resources as well as diminish economic security and stability provided by the imports of goods and resources from their allied countries: China, Russia and Bulgaria. North Korea’s ambivalence is a result of Kim Jong-un’s mission to assure that his family’s dynasty is not threatened or destroyed by way of limitations on the country’s nuclear program. Kim Jong-un fears that if North Korea were to submit to an agreement similar to the ones made by Libya and Iraq with the US to cease production of nuclear programming, then the Kim regime, similar to that of Muammar al-Gaddafi and Saddam Hussein, would be toppled. The reckless attitude displayed by Kim Jong-un has the capacity to not only further negatively impact the lives of North Korea’s citizens but also affect the future of nuclear proliferation and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)⁵ currently signed by 191 of the World’s States Parties⁶.

The other factor challenging the United Nation’s response to the North Korean nuclear crisis is the history and experience of North Korea in both belonging to and withdrawing from the NPT as well as their disobedience of the Agreed Framework.⁷ This agreement, signed between the United States and North Korea on October 21, 1994, committed North Korea to freezing operations on plutonium enrichment for purposes of nuclear weaponry in exchange for the US’s aid in construction of two proliferation-resistant nuclear power reactors. This experience has influenced many to think that striving for a settlement similar to the JCPOA between the UNSC and DPRK will prove fruitless, similar to the intention of the Agreed Framework.

The unpredictable nature of North Korea’s dictatorship keeps the United Nations as well as the DPRK’s biggest allies and enemies constantly considering if pressure on North Korea through sanctions and other diplomatic means will ever coerce Kim Jong-un into negotiations. Demonstrated by the unanimous vote for Security Council Resolution 2375, all members of the current Security Council feel that the negotiations are of

¹ <http://www.un.org/en/sc/>

² <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/245317.pdf>

³ [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2371\(2017\)](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2371(2017))

⁴ [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2375\(2017\)](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2375(2017))

⁵ <https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/npt/>

⁶ <http://disarmament.un.org/treaties/t/npt>

⁷ <http://www.nti.org/media/pdfs/aptagframe.pdf>

immediate necessity. The result of a successful Inter Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM⁸) created by the North Korean nuclear program could lead to unimaginable consequences for the United States, China, South Korea, Japan and most obviously North Korea. Therefore, it is the job of the Security Council to continue these talks towards a solution and to pay close attention to North Korea's nuclear history as well as the imminent effects a successful weapon could have on their people, the countries surrounding them, and the world at large.

While researching this topic it is important to remember that although multiple countries like the United States and China have publicly denounced North Korea's nuclear program and have threatened the fate of the country, your responsibility as a delegate is to represent of views of your country. It is also important to keep in mind that this issue affects all countries of the UN, and therefore relationships between each delegate's respective countries should be respected and preserved during our committee's debates and resolutions.

During your research some factors you should explore are: How does the dictatorship style of the Kim dynasty complicate this issue and threaten the nuclear state of the international community? In what ways does the history between countries and North Korea affect negotiations and finding a possible solution to this issue? How would programs to denuclearize North Korea affect other countries with nuclear programs? Would policy be North Korean specific, or more general to prevent this issue from arising in India, Israel, South Sudan and Pakistan, the four countries that never signed onto the NPT? Is the goal to denuclearize North Korea a similar one to the JCPOA or does this situation require stronger and more aggressive action? Consider, how a resolution will affect the citizens of North Korea and what the responsibility of the Security Council is to these people? Does this responsibility fall under Security Council Resolution 1674, which reaffirmed the responsibility of the Security Council to protect civilians affected by armed conflict, genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity⁹? How will the denuclearization affect North Korea's biggest allies such as China and Russia? What is the scope of the Security Council's responsibility to these countries? Review the UNSC charter, specifically the clause "Under the Charter, all Members States are obligated to comply with Council decisions."¹⁰ In relation to the sanctions implemented and further actions, how will the Security Council assure that countries comply with decisions? What effects could a potential war have on your country and its allies? What message will the denuclearization of North Korea send to the international community about the world's view towards nuclear programming? How will the implementation of programs to denuclearize North Korea help prevent the rise of mismanaged nuclear programs in other countries?

I urge you to investigate these questions as well as others you come across in your research. This topic is perpetually evolving and the expectation of the Security Council is that all factors pertaining to this issue as well as anything relevant in February will be discussed at the conference.

⁸ <http://www.businessinsider.com/intercontinental-ballistic-missiles-science-2017-7>

⁹ [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1674\(2006\)](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1674(2006))

¹⁰ <http://www.un.org/en/sc/>

While researching your countries' positions, please be sure to also research the work of the Security Council on this issue, as well as the Agreed Framework. Additionally, as the denuclearization of North Korea is at the forefront of the world's conversation I urge you to look at news sources from your own countries as this topic as well as events of the UN General Assembly that took place from September 19-25th, surely made headlines in local papers.

When writing your position paper, it is important to remember that your role, as a delegate, is to represent the position of your country and work towards resolutions that your country would realistically agree with. Every paper will be submitted to turnitin.com to be scanned for plagiarism. Any delegates found to have submitted a plagiarized paper will not be permitted to attend the conference and will be subject to disciplinary action from their schools.

Best of Luck,

Rena Kleiner
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YUNMUN XXVIII