



I. DISARMAMENT & INTERNATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE TOPIC GUIDE

MID-AMERICAN MODEL UNITED NATIONS
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PRESENTED BY



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A. Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (67b)

On September 25, 1997, the Security Council convened to discuss a concerted effort to promote peace and security within Africa. The Council noted with concern the intensity of armed conflicts throughout Africa. On April 13, 1998, the General Assembly met to discuss the matter and crafted a report, in which the body outlined methods to promote stability and economic growth in Africa. Throughout the 2000s, the General Assembly has met to discuss issues including, but not limited to: peace and security in Africa, armed conflicts, and the impacts of conflict on women and children. The General Assembly has repeatedly addressed their concerns with the high numbers of sexual assault and violence in armed conflict, and the fear of continuing and worsening violence. Under resolution A/RES/71/254, the General Assembly created a Framework for a Renewed United Nations-African Union Partnership on Africa's Integration and Development Agenda 2017-2027. The United Nations reaffirmed its commitment to support the African Union's Agenda 2063. Aspiration 1 of the Agenda 2063 focuses on a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development. Aspiration 4 calls for a peaceful and secure Africa, seeking mechanisms for peaceful prevention and resolution of conflict.

The inability to combat conflict and promote durable peace and sustainability has caused detrimental harm throughout Africa. The Congolese war has been one of Africa's deadliest wars. Beginning in 1998, approximately 20 armed groups fought amongst each other or exploited the nation's resources, furthering existing conflicts. As of 2023, 6.5 million people were displaced due to ongoing conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Over 100 armed forces and several national armies are vying for control in the region since fighting broke out in earnest in 2021.¹ Further, since South Sudan's annexation and declaration of independence, there has been conflict throughout the country. During the civil war in 2013, over 380,000 individuals were killed and 2 million people were forced to flee their homes. In 2022, South Sudan saw another violent and deadly year due to fighting between armed groups.. This violence has resulted in a high number of deaths and sexual assaults throughout the country. In addition, Africa has continued to be affected by the war between the Russian Federation and Ukraine, the COVID-19 Pandemic, and climate-induced extreme weather events.

In July 2022, the General Assembly passed resolution A/RES/76/298, in which the body implemented recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of the durable peace and sustainable development in Africa. The resolution was drafted to reaffirm prior commitments to helping Africa promote

¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/12/17/world/africa/democratic-republic-of-congo-elections.html>

peace and sustainability. The African Development Bank has put \$1.5 billion in a facility called the “African Emergency Food Production Facility,” to produce 38 million metric tons of food, with a total value of \$12 billion, which will support 20 million farmers.

The year 2023 marks a critical juncture, namely the midway point for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the conclusion of the first 10-year implementation plan (2014–2023) of Agenda 2063. Global crises and conflicts have impeded the success of this agenda. Supply chain disruptions from the COVID-19 pandemic and the war between the Russian Federation and Ukraine have impeded global demand for African products and the abilities of countries to provide stimulus measures to support the industrial sector.²

² <https://www.undp.org/africa/publications/2023-africa-sustainable-development-report>

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B. Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East (98)

The creation and support of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones (NWFZ) for different regions was first introduced to promote international peace and security while strengthening the global goal towards nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament.¹ In 1975, a NWFZ was defined under UN Resolution 3472 (XXX) as, "...to be any zone, recognized as such by the General Assembly of the United Nations, which any group of States, in the free exercises of their sovereignty, has established by virtue of a treaty or convention whereby: (a) The statute of total absence of nuclear weapons to which the zone shall be subject, including the procedure for the delimitation of the zone, is defined; (b) An international system of verification and control is established to guarantee compliance with the obligations deriving from that statute"².

In December 2018, the United Nations General Assembly passed resolution (A/74/546), establishing a conference to create a nuclear free zone in the Middle East. This conference to establish a nuclear free zone in the Middle East began on November 18, 2019 until November 22, 2019.³ The conference not only created the zone to be nuclear weapon free, but also included other weapons of mass destruction³. The resolution also encouraged cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to help in preparing the background information that was required by the committee³. More sessions of this committee followed for the decision of the establishment of a nuclear free zone of the Middle East, and its most recent session was held in November 2023⁴.

Although the conferences regarding the creation of a NWFZ in the Middle East are fairly recent, the discussion of nuclear nonproliferation in the Middle East has been addressed many times in the UN General Assembly. Resolution (A/RES/72/67) recalls treaties including the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and encourages the implementation of the agreed treaties and the commitments made by signing the treaty⁵. In April 1999, the UN Disarmament Commission reported its recommended guidelines for the establishment of a nuclear free zone in the Middle East.¹ Some of the recommendations included that the States within the suggested zone freely agree with the denuclearization of the established zone, that nuclear-weapons States should be consulted during the negotiations of each denuclearization treaty so that the nuclear weapon State will ratify the suggested treaty, and that these treaties will not prohibit the development of nuclear technology for sustainable use.¹

¹ <https://disarmament.unoda.org/wmd/nuclear/nwzf/>

² <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/Disarm%20ARES3472B.pdf>

³ <https://disarmament.unoda.org/topics/conference-on-a-mezf-of-nwadowomd/>

⁴ <https://disarmament.unoda.org/fourth-session-mezfnwowmd-2023/>

⁵ <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N17/419/99/PDF/N1741999.pdf?OpenElement>

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C. Prevention of an arms race in outer space (100)

One of the hallmarks of scientific advancements has been the exploration of space, but for as long as we have been able to explore the cosmos, various actors and organizations have sought to weaponize it. Going back to the US-Soviet Space Race and the Cold War, space exploration has been linked with military advancement.

International organizations, in conjunction with the United Nations, have taken steps to keep space open and safe for all. The first major steps came in the creation of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in 1959 and passing of the Outer Space Treaty of 1967 by the General Assembly.³ At its simplest, the treaty forbids countries from deploying "nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction" in outer space. Additionally, the treaty laid out the basics of the principle that no one person or nation owns space, all countries have a right to explore it. It should be noted that the treaty explicitly does not bar missiles launched from Earth that travel through space, only those stored in and launched from space.

Since the end of the Cold War, much of the international conversation around the prevention of an arms race in outer space has been held through the Conference on Disarmament (CoD). While this is an independent organization, it has incredibly close ties to the United Nations and the Office for Disarmament Affairs.⁴ Currently, the CoD is discussing the proposed Prevention of an Arms Race in Space (PAROS) Treaty. The current text of the treaty was proposed by the Russian Federation in 2008. The Outer Space Treaty only bars the deployment of nuclear weapons and "weapons of mass destruction" in outer space, whereas the PAROS treaty tackles the issue more broadly by prohibiting the use of space weapons, the development of space-weapon technology, and technology related to "missile defense." In 2014, the General Assembly adopted the resolution along with the "No first placement of weapons in outer space" resolution. The United States and Israel abstained on the PAROS resolution. Notably, Georgia, Israel, Ukraine, and the United States voted no on the "No First Placement" resolution and 46 states (mostly EU members) abstained from voting.

The lack of support by the United States highlights one of the main issues: enforcement mechanisms. As with most international operations, enforcement occurs through self-regulation or efforts undertaken by either nations or the Security Council. This leaves little options to enforce compliance against nations like the United States or Russian Federation, two nations who have the capabilities of putting weapons and space regardless of the

³ <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/outerspace>

⁴ <https://www.nti.org/education-center/treaties-and-regimes/conference-on-disarmament/>

desires of the international community. Efforts to prevent an arms race in outer space not only requires international support, but also mechanisms to enforce compliance against the most powerful nations, the same nations who typically lead enforcement efforts.