

Novice Security Council Committees



Weaponization of the Democratic Republic of Korea (DPRK / North Korea)

Background of Committee:

The United Nations Security Council is the most powerful of the six major UN bodies. Often the most well-known branch of the United Nations, its primary purpose is to maintain international peace and security. The Security Council is the only committee with the explicit access to Peacekeeping forces as well as the ability to impose sanctions on other nations. There are five permanent members of the Security Council: the United States, United Kingdom, China, Russia, and France. Ten nations are rotated out every two years to work alongside the permanent members; every member of the Security Council takes a vote in resolutions, but if at least one permanent member votes against a resolution, the resolution immediately fails.

In a Security Council committee, speaking lists do not exist and the committee instead goes in a round robin speaking format; every delegate speaks for five minutes at a time until all delegates have had an opportunity to speak and delegates are allowed to pass when their turn comes. Unmoderated caucuses can be motioned for as well as moderated caucus, but moderated caucuses occurring will be dependent on the status of committee and time constraints. Please remember that Security Council members do not only represent their own nation, but surrounding states within their region or bloc as well.

Goals of the Committee:

This session of Security Council committee is focused on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, colloquially known as the DPRK or North Korea. The committee will be focusing on maintaining international security and peace and determining solution-based actions in response to the recent and past events in the region. The goal of the committee is to effectively respond to the current situation in North Korea and collaboratively construct and pass strong resolutions to alleviate the conflict.

Background of the Topic:

In the past century, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has been developing at an alarmingly fast rate. They've developed their nuclear stockpile, along with biochemical weapons as well. They have facilities for all types of warfare, including nuclear, biological, and chemical. With these facilities, they have over 5,000 metric tons of chemical weapons, along with numerous nuclear reactors. The development of nuclear weapons began in the 1950s, and ever since then, North Korea has been adding on to their stock of nuclear power. It began through their partnership with the Soviet Union, and then following that initial aid their development began to rapidly improve. By the late 1960s, North Korea began to research within civilian and military use. In the 1970s, they began research on the IRT-2000 research reactor, which later on went under the safeguards of the IAEA, along with the Soviet Union, which aided by providing fuel.

Towards the 1980s, the advancement increased with the DPRK creating more uranium facilities thanks to natural uranium deposits within the nation, along with a new nuclear reactor. The Nuclear non proliferation treaty was created in 1985, and signed by the DPRK, but they

withdrew following the UN's decision to inspect North Korean waste sites. In 1994, they had declared their nuclear facilities, but once they withdrew from the NPT, they were no longer required to. Such issues went on for over a decade, causing issues between the UN and the DPRK.

Since 2006, there have been two nuclear tests, and multiple failed negotiation attempts, despite numerous sanctions being placed on North Korea. It is imperative that we find solutions to have the DPRK collaborate with the United Nations, in order to keep the international community safe. Despite the grave dangers coming with nuclear weapons, North Korea is also becoming a threat through the development of chemical and biological weapons. They have not signed the Biological Warfare Convention nor the Chemical Warfare Convention. Despite being a part of the Biological and Toxin Weapons convention, they are still predicted to be exporters of other chemical weapons, causing them to become a threat.

Biochemical weapons have been in use since World War One, but majority of the global community has stopped the usage; DRPK has not. The UNHRC has reported that mustard, phosgene, sarin, and other chemical agents have been produced and stored within the DPRK's borders. These chemicals may have been tested on prisoners. It is becoming an increasing danger, especially to the neighboring countries. Through research movements, many South Korean soldiers have died, as a result, and this discrimination is continuing to happen. We must stop the development and research behind chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons within the Democratic People's Republic, before the threat of weaponization reaches its full, destructive potential.

UN Involvement:

The United Nations as an organized group of nations has had many an attempt to demilitarize not only the DPRK but other countries as well through conventions, resolutions, and signed treaties. The most notable being the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty of 1985 which established safeguards enforced by the IAEA along with the agreement to cooperate on beneficial uses of nuclear energy. Though the DPRK has signed the treaty at its conception, the nation has since withdrawn their signature and is no longer bound to the guidelines within it.

On November 20th, 2016, the Security Council unanimously agreed that the DPRK should no longer be allowed to run nuclear tests unsupervised with sanctions against the country that would heavily affect their revenue in nuclear programs and missile programs by restricting how much coal, another natural resource of the DPRK, they would be allowed to export in one year. The UN Secretary-General up to 2016, South Korean Ban Ki-Moon, claimed that these sanctions were the "toughest and most comprehensive sanctions regime ever" that were specifically targeted to the DPRK.

The 1718 Sanctions of 2006 on North Korea was set up for all countries to cooperate in making sure that no biological, nuclear, and chemical weapons were entering the country. This was another resolution unanimously passed by the Security Council which entailed: the restriction of any new nuclear tests, mandatory talks with multiple large nations, inspection of exports from the DPRK in case of the transport of weapons of mass destruction, bans on the movement of

weapons, freezing overseas assets of peoples in the DPRK, and the banning of exports of luxury goods to the DPRK. However, these sanctions were not enforced through means of military action except for French naval inspections of cargo coming out of the DPRK.

Key Questions, Possible Solutions, Potential Exploratory Topics, Etc.:

Why is the DPRK's (biological and nuclear) weapons and military program seen or not seen as a major threat at a regional scale and international scale?

Possible sanctions put upon the DPRK due to suspected or confirmed violations of international law of multiple subjects; this may be difficult as the DPRK is not directly involved with many UN conventions nor signed UN resolutions.

Audits and amendments to existing conventions or resolutions may be proposed.

What can the Security Council do about individual nations without infringing on sovereignty?

Has the history of the DPRK at any point contributed to the culmination of events occurring now?

The General Assembly has regularly been urging the Security Council to put Kim Jong-un on trial in the ICC under violation of human rights.

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