

Research Report
Model United Nations Alfrink
2022

RESEARCH REPORT

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 1



***Addressing the issue of legality to threaten the use of
nuclear weapons and missiles.***

*Student officer:
Leina Sehli*

Introduction

Legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons is a landmark international law case, where the International Court of Justice gave an advisory opinion stating that while the threat or use of nuclear weapons would generally be contrary to international humanitarian law, it cannot be concluded whether or not such a threat or use of those nuclear weapons would be lawful in extreme circumstances where the very survival of a state would be at stake. The Court held that there is no source of international law that explicitly authorizes or prohibits the threat or use of nuclear weapons but such threat or use must be in conformity with the UN Charter and principles of INL. The Court further found that nuclear disarmament was a general obligation.

The Committee

General Assembly 1 is a fairly ordinary committee, meaning there are no special Rules of Procedure specific to this committee. In MUNA, General Assembly 1 deals with disarmament and international security issues, which can include an immense total of topics. In this Committee, the delegates are challenged to pass resolutions to the General Assembly that give clear and workable recommendations to deal with these important issues.

When debating on different solutions, it is important to note money is not an issue as nations can call upon the UN's unlimited funds. Hence, a delegate should never vote or speak against a resolution because of financial reasons.

Key Words

Nuclear Weapon: a bomb or missile that uses nuclear energy to cause an explosion.

The International Court of Justice: the principal judicial organ of the United Nations.

International humanitarian law (IHL): a set of rules that seek the effects of armed conflict.

Arguments

The use of nuclear weapon has been taboo since the United States bombed the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the end of the WWII. Although, some countries have developed nuclear weapons as a form of deterrence, to prevent attacks with the threat of nuclear counterattack. No nations have used them since 1945.

Only a handful of nations are armed with nuclear weapons. The presence of these weapons and their immense destructive capabilities is a major deterrent for starting a major conflict. Even when both nations have them in possession, their mutually assured destruction is enough to cause diplomacy to rule the day. Moreover, having nuclear weapons reinforces national borders and can even changes the power and status of a nation.

Timeline of event

1945, August 6 – Hiroshima

1945, August 9 – Nagasaki

Resolution

When composing a resolution, a delegate should carefully consider their country's perspective and opinion on the matter. Having read this research report is a good starting point for your research. Try to think of ways that offer a solution for all countries involved to reduce the consequences of this issue. Remember to focus on the issue concerning the lesser-developed countries but do not forget to include the developed countries as well. Make sure the measures are realistic and achievable. Additionally, you should keep in mind that different countries have different policies, and keep the global differences in mind. These differences might be economic, however, they are also historical. Make sure to research your country in detail, and keep in mind that you are speaking as if representing that nation. Therefore, make sure to have done some research about your country's policy before joining to the conference.

Links and Sources

<https://www.icanw.org/>

<https://www.icj-cij.org/en/case/95>

<https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/nuclear-weapons-a-tactical-advantage/>