

OFFICIAL WELCOME

Dear Delegates,

On behalf of the Directors, Assistant Directors, Senior and Executive Staffs, and the National Collegiate Conference Association, I would like to take this time to officially welcome you to the 2007 National Model United Nations – DC Conference. Our staff has worked most diligently throughout the year to provide you with what we believe are outstanding preparation materials for your participation come November. It is our sincere hope that these materials serve you well in your preparation.

This Research Guide has been provided as a resource for your preparation for NMUN-DC '07. In it you will find helpful links and questions which will help guide you during your delegate preparation. Our number one objective for this conference is to continue furthering the educational aspect of Model United Nations and to facilitate your learning experience in an engaging arena. As your committee director, my main objective is to facilitate a committee session in which you will learn the intricacies of parliamentary procedure and in doing so hone your public speaking and debate skills. I hope that as you learn the importance of tolerance and compromise throughout our committee sessions, that you can look back and appreciate the patience of resolving differences through dialogue and problem-solving in an outstanding educational experience. As director of the General Assembly 1st Committee I am pleased to play a part in your educational experience and hope that I can act as a resource for you throughout this process and thereafter.

HISTORY OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

As the most inclusive of all U.N. bodies, the General Assembly 1st Committee is perhaps the most important. The problems of the world are too numerous and too contentious to be deliberated amongst the entire General Assembly of the United Nations. Therefore, most questions of world peace are allocated to six Main Committees, the first of which handles all matters on Disarmament and International Security. Every Member State is represented in the General Assembly 1st making it the organ in which the most wide ranging and encompassing debate occurs. Through the years the work of the General Assembly has served as a meter of global opinion. The U.N. Charter explains the role of the General Assembly as the primary source of recommendation for the Security Council. The body has the authority to discuss any question relating to international peace and security, except when the Security Council may be engaged with the topic.

TOPIC #1: Solving a Nuclear Standoff: A South Asian Nuclear Weapons Free Zone

- Will the establishment of a South Asian Nuclear Weapons Free Zone curtail the tension between India and Pakistan? Is the idea of establishing such a zone even feasible?

Since the partition of British India, and the ensuing Indo-Pakistani War of 1947, the relations between India and Pakistan have been volatile at best. The debate over the jurisdiction of Kashmir has fueled tensions for more than fifty years. With both Pakistan and India formally having been recognized as members of the “nuclear club” the peace and security of the entire region have come under assault. As a delegate in the General Assembly 1st Committee you will be faced with confronting the idea of establishing a South Asian Nuclear Weapons Free Zone similar to those established in South East Asia, the South Pacific, Latin America, and Africa. It will be your responsibility to explain why such a zone should or should not be established, as per your states’ policy, and if it be the latter to present possible policy alternatives.

TOPIC #2: Iran: Nuclear Proliferation vs. Nuclear Energy

- What is the balance between the peaceful use of nuclear energy and the pursuit of nuclear weapons which threaten global peace and security? Has Iran violated the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty?

The dual use of technology is something that the United Nations has debated since its conception. Perhaps the most important aspect of this debate is that of nuclear technology. Since the creation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty it would seem the world has a framework for which to address the difference between the peaceful pursuit and use of nuclear energy and the proliferation of the nuclear arms. Iran is the most prescient example of this debate today. Since taking office Iranian President Ahmadinejad has at times taken a belligerent stance towards the west and their allies. Does the international community have the authority to pick and choose who is permitted to pursue nuclear energy? How does Iranian rhetoric affect the attitude of U.N. member states? As a delegate in the General Assembly 1st Committee it is your responsibility to address the gray areas which may exist in the balance between the peaceful pursuit of nuclear energy and the proliferation of nuclear weapons that threaten the very peace and security that the U.N. was founded to protect.

TOPIC #3: Illicit Arms Trade

Should U.N. Member States be focusing more on curtailing the use and trade of small arms? How have previous international agreements approached this issue and have they been successful?

What fuels global conflict? In an age of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons it may be that the number one threat to international peace and security goes overlooked. The illicit sale of small arms fuels conflict all over the world. Small arms like Rocket Propelled Grenades are used everyday against international forces throughout the world. The trade in small arms fuels civil wars, cross border conflicts, international terrorism, and is responsible for the majority of conflict deaths around the world. As a delegate in the General Assembly 1st Committee it will be your duty to explore and present new options for curtailing the trade of small arms.

ANNOTATED BIBOLIGRAPHY

Solving a Nuclear Standoff: A South Asian Nuclear Weapons Free Zone

Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone in South Asia, Savita Pande

Strategic Analysis: A Monthly Journal of the IDSA

http://www.ciaonet.org/olj/sa/sa_99pns01.html

This paper examines the creation of a nuclear weapons free zone throughout South Asia and explains previous global initiatives towards this cause. This article will provide you with necessary background information.

Nuclear Issues in India and Pakistan, Vaness Tait

University of California, Berkley Library 2004

<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/SSEAL/SouthAsia/nuclear.html>

A collection of online resources which cover a wide array of viewpoints and possible policy prescriptions. You should use this source to gather more information on issues and perspectives you've uncovered in your initial background research.

Iran: Nuclear Proliferation vs. Nuclear Energy

Iran: Is There a Way Out of the Nuclear Impasse?, Crisis Group Collaboration

http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?action=login&ref_id=3976

This is a report of the International Crisis Group on the nuclear impasse involving Iran. This report gets very in depth in terms of the international legality of the Iranian nuclear program and also provides a number of policy recommendations. It will provide you not only with in depth objective information on the issue but will also give you a feel for a third party subjective policy approach.

The Iranian Nuclear Challenge, Wyn Q. Bowen, Joanna Kidd

International Affairs 80 (2), 257–276. doi:10.1111/j.1468-2346.2004.00382.

<http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1468-2346.2004.00382.x>

In December 2003 Iran signed an Additional Protocol to its Safeguards Agreement with the International Atomic Energy Authority. The signing followed 18 months of mounting international pressure on Iran to prove its benign motives following revelations about past failures to declare work on uranium enrichment and plutonium separation—the two routes to producing nuclear weapons-grade material. This article provides more of a western perspective to the Iranian nuclear issue and while it can be very useful to you, it should be read with this in mind.

Illicit Arms Trade

The Illicit Arms Trade, Matt Schroeder

Federation of American Scientists Arms Sales Monitoring Project

<http://www.fas.org/asmp/campaigns/smallarms/IssueBrief3ArmsTrafficking.html>

This is a basic introduction to the issue of small arms/light weapons trafficking and national and international efforts to control it. This source may seem a bit overwhelming at first, but if you show some patience you will find it will provide you with an excellent launching board for your research.

The Small Arms/Light Weapons Issue: Competing Constituencies, Priorities, and Paradigms, Jo L. Husbands

United Nations and Global Security, An Initiative of the United Nations Foundation

<http://www.un-globalsecurity.org/pdf/husbands.pdf>

This article explains some of the different constituencies aiming to bring solutions to the table to the issue of small arms trade. You'll also find a wealth of resources in this articles bibliography.