

Forum: 1st committee: Disarmament and International Security

Issue: Nuclear energy as a green alternative

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Description of the Issue:

The UN and the nuclear age were created almost at the same time. After what happened in the Second World War at Hiroshima and Nagasaki the nuclear issue needed to be brought up. In 1957, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was formed.

In the first four years after the Chernobyl plant accident, the Soviet Union decided to deal with the consequences of the explosion at a national level. The International corporation in nuclear safety was intensified: four international safety conventions, two Codes of Conduct, fundamental safety principles and a body of globally recognized IAEA Safety Standards were developed and adopted.

In 2018, 13 countries relayed on nuclear energy to support at least one-quarter of their energy. Since 2021, 32 countries worldwide are opening 443 nuclear reactors for electricity generation and 55 nuclear plants are under construction.

In Ukraine, France and Slovakia nuclear power makes for more than half of the total electricity produced.

Background Information:

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), that was signed in 1968, gives IAEA to conduct on-site inspections to ensure that the nuclear materials are only used for peaceful purposes.

The NPT is a landmark international treaty whose objective is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to promote co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament.

Before the 2003 Iraq war, the inspectors were a key element in uncovering and destroying the banned weapons programs and capabilities. The agency and its Director General, Mohamed ElBardei were awarded the Nobel Prize, in 2005, because they were able to prevent nuclear energy from being used for military purposes.

The IAEA, brought attention to the fact that the nuclear power contributes to around one-third of all low carbon electricity and some producing 10% of the total electricity worldwide. The IAEA accepted that there are some concerns about the potential dangers to the health and environment cause by radioactive waste from the nuclear reactors.

The large up-front of the nuclear energy still remains a concern to the UN, especially that renewable energy, such as solar and wind are dropping in price, becoming more competitive and conventional, fossil-fuel based sources.

Key-terms:

Nuclear energy: the energy released during nuclear fission or fusion, especially when used to generate electricity.

Fission: atoms are split apart, which creates energy. Nuclear fission releases a large amount of energy in the form of heat and radiations.

Fusion: is a power generation that would generate electricity

Renewable energy: energy that is collected form renewable resources that are naturally replenished (sun, wind, etc.)

Important countries with nuclear reactors:

- France
- Slovakia
- Ukraine
- Belgium
- Brazil
- Sweden
- Russia
- United Kingdom
- The United States of America
- Turkey
- The United Arab Emirates
- Finland
- China
- India
- Pakistan
- Mexico
- Japan

Useful links:

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

<https://www.iaea.org/topics/nuclear-safety-action-plan>

Questions for the delegates:

-Where does your country stand with this issue?

-Does your country have a nuclear reactor?