

KENTUCKY UNITED NATIONS ASSEMBLY 2020

SECURITY COUNCIL ISSUES

At KUNA, the Security Council will address **3 Issues** pertaining to international security in a specialized debate format. This year's issues are as follows:

- **Issue 1: Nuclear Disarmament**
- **Issue 2: Space Expansion**
- **Issue 3: Population Instability**

Each issue includes a resource guide with the following sections:

- **Background on Issue**
Summary and background information on the issue
- **Questions to Address**
Guiding questions/problems to address in position papers and resolutions
- **Sources**
Links to research, articles, and other resources on the issue

All Security Council members - both Middle School and High School - will prepare and submit a **Position Paper** stating the position of their country on each of these 3 issues prior to KUNA. You must submit a position paper, or you will not be able to participate in the Council.

Members must also complete a Diplomatic Analysis Form, which will be posted on the website under KUNA Resources. The form will require students to read and analyze their fellow members' position papers prior to the conference.

Position Papers are submitted using the link below (NOT on your delegation's registration form), and are due two weeks before your conference: www.kyymca.org/kuna/security-council

The page above also includes links to the Security Council Resource Folder, which contains additional resources and templates for preparing for your role as a member of the Security Council.

At the Assembly, members of the Security Council will work together to draft, debate, and vote on **Resolutions** addressing each of the issues.

Our High School Security Council will also participate in a **Crisis Scenario**, which will be facilitated by the President of the Security Council President and YMCA Staff. Details regarding the scenario will be revealed at KUNA.

Security Council | Issue 1

Nuclear Disarmament

AUTHOR: Scotty Monteith, President of the Security Council, KUNA 1

BACKGROUND ON ISSUE

With the looming threat of nuclear war always hanging around the corner one must wonder if there is a solution. It is the responsibility of the Security Council to hold accountable national that threaten the security of others. Nuclear disarmament means any action to reduce or eliminate nuclear weapons. There are nine countries that possess nuclear weapons with North Korea being the most recent country to successfully test nuclear bomb. Of those nine countries the U.S. and Russia have a combined total of 93% of the nuclear warheads. Those numbers are horrifying luckily there have been strides in the past to disarm the global nuclear arsenals. There have been ways in the past countries have disarmed their nukes, and now more than ever we need countries to agree to disarm their nukes.

Every country has their own opinions of nuclear weapons from the U.S. and Russia who use them as deterrents for another world war. Or Japan who avoid having nuclear weapons after seeing the damage it can cause to people. This knowledge of the effects of nuclear weapons has led countries to only seek nuclear energy but not weapons. Many countries such as Japan and England have nuclear energy, but not weapons. However, there is another side with both power and weapons such as Russia and the U.S. their weapons could be argued as peace keeping devices because they deter war with each other, but all they end up doing is creating proxy wars. The third scenario a country can have with nuclear power is not having any of it. Many countries do not have nuclear power or weapons because it is too dangerous or they can not afford nuclear energy. Across all these different countries with different relations to nuclear energy there is a continuing debate about nuclearization. With one side saying if they keep their nukes they will feel safe and keep their allies safe. While the other side says there should be disarmament because any country with nuclear weapons is a threat.

There have been efforts to dismantle and disarm their nuclear arsenal with South Africa being the first to do so in 1990, when the African National Congress took power of that country. The U.N. has the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) who since their founding have sought the global elimination of nuclear weapons. Although their efforts did create a decline in warheads after the Cold War there has been a plateau in recent years. With tension rising again between India and Pakistan, there have been many people wanting nuclear disarmament. In the light of recent events with countries such as the U.S. and North Korea having peace talks there might be a peaceful way for disarmament.

One of the hardest obstacles in disarmament is convincing a country to get rid of their nuclear weapons. One factor that keeps them holding on to their nukes is the fear that they are a weaker target without them. Many countries such as Pakistan and India do not want to lose their nukes because it would mean they are more vulnerable. However, nuclear disarmament is important for so many reasons. The main reason is if we do go to nuclear war everyone would die. This is not just an issue for countries with nukes, but for all countries. South Korea, which is just south of North Korea, lives in constant fear that North Korean nukes will hit their city. Japan, a country with no nuclear weapons, has had two nuclear bombs dropped on them killing hundreds of thousands. Another reason for disarmament is there are 1,800 metric tons nuclear weapons stored across 25 countries, some of them poorly secured. These places that store nuclear weapons are high targets for terrorists seeking to steal these weapons and cause chaos. It is up to the U.N and every country individually to start the process of nuclear disarmament. There are many reasons for a country to keep their nukes, however, one is for deterring other nations, and another reason is to allow the people in the country to feel safe.

The Security Council has a primary responsibility, under the United Nations Charter, for the maintenance of international peace and security. Nuclear disarmament falls under this definition because without nuclear disarmament there can be no peace. A person can give a rebuttal even and say "nuclear weapons deter war" but the very idea of a nuclear weapon is an act of aggression. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the Security Council to handle the threat of nuclearization.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN POSITION PAPERS (3)

1. Does your country have nuclear weapons or energy? If yes how many warheads?
2. Has your country ever been affected by a nuclear disaster?
3. What is your country's opinion on nuclear disarmament?

SOURCES FOR RESEARCH (5)

- <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/politics/the-nine-countries-that-have-nuclear-weapons-a6798756.html>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Africa_and_weapons_of_mass_destruction
- <https://unoda-epub.s3.amazonaws.com/i/index.html?book=sg-disarmament-agenda.epub>
- <https://www.nti.org/learn/nuclear/>
- <https://www.definitions.net/definition/NUCLEAR%20DISARMAMENT>
- <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/role-of-security-council>

Security Council | Issue 2

Space Expansion

AUTHOR: Andrew Hall, Security Council President, HS KUNA 2

Across the world, there are 72 active “space programs.” These programs are as diverse as the countries that house them, ranging in scope from satellite operations to human spaceflight programs. In spite of the increasing pressure on economic and environmental resources all countries face, many countries, and even some international organizations, have continued to create and expand their space programs, allocating increasing amounts of money and human capital to such projects. Arguably, the largest space programs, including those of the United States, Russia, and China were created primarily to promote nationalism, and to improve weapons and defense systems. It is the role of the Security Council to ensure that the increase in space races does not destabilize global security. A rise in nationalism has historically been shown to make the space race more dangerous. In this era of increasing nationalism, the Security Council must monitor these issues and countries with a vigilant eye.

If nationalism is the foundation driving past and present “space races,” it is also often the root of most conflicts arising between new and expanding space programs. Territorial conflicts have arisen between the United States and the European Space Agency, for example, due to the expansion goals of each program. These conflicts are typical between large space programs, even when their goals are aligned and they are seeking to cooperatively work together. As such, the United Nations has recognized the need for a third party facilitator, and has often stepped in to smooth negotiations between nations by acting as a mediator. The Security Council acts as that mediator, as one of its main functions is investigating and settling international disputes.

While space exploration can facilitate positive growth and cooperation, it also allows new ground for warfare. A new, global, space race is not without risks. Russian and Chinese anti-satellite systems have already been used in order to disrupt communications in Ukraine. While the first international arms treaty in space was created and ratified in 1967, much remains to be done as conflict involving space evolves. The rapidly increasing desire for warfare technology has led to a rapid increase in defense technology. The United States pioneered the “Star Wars” program, opening up the world to a new range of possible defense systems. This technology changed how weaponization of space expanded; once the possibility for defense arose, stronger weapons were made. The space race at the height of the cold war is a perfect example of how the confluence of events-- rampant nationalism and fear of the other side’s weapons, encourage secrecy and an unwillingness to cooperate with organizations such as the United Nations Security Council.

Ultimately, the market for space programs is expanding to facilitate change in a variety of unique ways that benefit many countries. Expansion in space results primarily growth and change. However, it can also result in global conflict or even be used as a proxy for warfare. Therefore, the Security Council must take its place as the global leader in addressing the rising crises from conflict in space.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN POSITION PAPERS (3)

1. What is your country's perspective on the Space Race and on subsequent expansions of the weaponization in Space?
2. What is the role of the United Nations in regulating space affairs, especially those regarding weaponization?
3. How can the United Nations prevent conflict from the desire to expand space programs?

SOURCES FOR RESEARCH (5)

1. United States Space Defense
<https://www.politico.com/story/2018/04/06/outer-space-war-defense-russia-china-463067>
2. Space Race Missile Expansion
<https://airandspace.si.edu/exhibitions/space-race/online/sec200/sec200.htm>
3. Space Race Timeline <https://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/space-race>
4. International Military Capabilities
<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2018/10/23/as-russia-and-china-improve-their-conventional-military-capabilities-should-the-us-rethink-its-assumptions-on-extended-nuclear-deterrence/>
5. Modern Conflicts in Space
<https://theoutline.com/post/3523/national-space-council-satellite-race?zd=1&zi=4qxpI32w>

Security Council | Issue 3

Population Instability

AUTHOR: Aidan Sheridan-Rabideau, President of the Security Council, KUNA 3

Population instability has been a long standing issue, however, it has received increased attention in recent years as its effects have become more prevalent. Thomas Malthus in the late 18th Century expressed his concern for the world's exponential population growth. He stated that one day Earth will reach its carrying capacity and will be unable to support its population. This once pessimistic viewpoint is now widely regarded as a realistic outcome for today's society. The demographer's simple thesis outlines that Earth requires balance that our population is skewing.

Since Malthus's initial statement, the world population has grown 700% and resource consumption has expanded twenty five fold. Due to these massive growth rates, countries are experiencing water and food shortages on a major scale. According to the World Water Organization, in 2018 there were more than a dozen violent outbursts due to lack of water or access to clean water. The organization sites that "Water Wars" are not a new issue, however, they are being exacerbated by Earth's record high populations. Nafis Sadik, the Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, asserts that population pressure is one of the three greatest factors that determines the nourishment of a nation's people. Sadik further states that arable land is key to feeding a growing population; however, countries with high levels of people per square mile oftentimes find themselves without sufficient farm land. This creates a complex to attempt to sustain earth's growing population on its shrinking resources.

Population instability in large metropolitan areas has manifested itself in the form of urban slums. Residence of these slums live in extreme poverty and are more susceptible to death due to lack of access to sanitation, high crime rates and decreased protection from natural disasters. Despite the unsafe living conditions for members of this community, slum populations are continually on the rise as the birth rate in these areas are extraordinarily high. As this population continues to grow, there is an increasing fear for the future of slum residents as humanitarian aid is already spread thin due to the sheer numbers of those impoverished in the slums.

Finally, population instability can occur due to the displacement of large groups of people. As demonstrated by the 6.7 million people fleeing in the Syrian refugee crisis, those seeking refuge face extraordinary peril as they participate in mass migration. According to a report conducted by the United Nations Refugee Agency, 2,275 Syrian migrants have died attempting to cross the Mediterranean Sea as they flee from their home nation. NPR additionally reports that those deaths contribute to the 4,503 migrant death toll in 2018. Unfortunately, unsafe conditions are not limited to those leaving nations. The 6.2 million Syrians who were displaced within their own country have lead to further instability within this region. The UN Refugee Agency reports that internally displaced persons face extreme poverty and high death rates as aid is scarce in relation to the vast need. Both international and intranational forms of human migration contribute to the changing and in many cases unstable global population.

When focusing the world's diverse and increasing population it is essential to continually generate innovative solutions to foster a sustainable population. Each nation faces its own unique challenges but through international cooperation we have the ability to create new solutions to change the global narrative of population instability.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN POSITION PAPERS (3)

1. How does population growth in regards to resource consumption threaten your nation's national stability?
2. What facets of the Security Council would your nation like to harness to stabilize urban slum populations?

3. How have changing populations led to security issues within your nation?

SOURCES FOR RESEARCH (5)

- 1) <http://www.worldwater.org>
- 2) <http://www.worldwater.org/conflict/list/>
- 3) <https://www.who.int/sustainable-development/cities/health-risks/slums/en/>
- 4) <https://www.worldvision.org/refugees-news-stories/syrian-refugee-crisis-facts>
- 5) <http://www.fao.org/3/U3550t/u3550t02.htm>