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International Atomic Energy Agency

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My name is Erika Fleischman and I am a sophomore here at St. Bonaventure University. I am dual majoring in Political Science and History and have a minor in Law and Society. After college I am planning on entering into law school or obtaining my masters degree in Political Science. This is my second year participating and chairing in SBUMUNC, and I hope that you enjoy your experience here at St. Bonaventure University. All participating students are welcome and encouraged to discuss other possible topics relating to Nuclear Proliferation than the ones listed below.

Topic #1: Implementation of the NPT Safeguards Agreement between the Agency and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

In December 2012, North Korea raised tensions between themselves and the People's Republic of Korea after launching a long-range rocket that was claimed to have been putting a satellite into orbit for scientific purposes, after a failure to launch the same satellite in April of the same year. As a result of this action, the United Nations Security Council both condemned and put sanctions on Pyongyang. The United States also took measures to increase the Republic of Korea's missile-building capabilities in order to increase the range of their missiles in order to cover the entirety of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. One must keep in mind that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has been banned from testing nuclear technology as well as missiles since 2006 due to United Nation sponsored sanctions.

In order to reduce such tensions between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the Republic of Korea, countries in the region, such as China, are taking defensive measures to reduce sensitive regional insecurities if the potential conflicts would happen to spillover into their borders. As for the United Nations' actions in this matter, current Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has been working to have the international community recognize the rocket launch as a clear violation of Security Council resolution 1874, created in 2009, which stated that the DPRK cannot conduct any launch using ballistic missile technology. He is also working towards building strong relationships with neighboring countries in order to push for creating peace and stability within the Korean peninsula. As the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), it is our job to give neighboring countries aid in abiding by the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as they find other solutions for how to deal with these tensions between surrounding nations, in order to create a secure environment within the international community.

Questions:

What are your country's policies when it comes to the NPT?

What sorts of nuclear safeguards should be put into practice in the DPRK if any?

Does your country believe that the DPRK should have been able to launch a rocket for scientific purposes?

How can the IAEA prevent nuclear warfare between the DPRK and the Republic of Korea?

Helpful Links:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/12/31/kim-jong-un-new-years-address_n_2390922.html
http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/cndy/2012-12/31/content_16070162.htm
<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=43745&Cr=Democratic&Cr1=Korea#UOR4yuRR3ng>
<http://www.un.org/en/conf/npt/2005/npttreaty.html>
http://www.iaea.org/newscenter/focus/iaeadprk/fact_sheet_may2003.shtml
http://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/24/world/asia/north-korea-threatens-seoul-with-military-action.html?_r=2&

Topic #2: Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in the Middle East

The possibility of creating a nuclear weapon free zone within the Middle East has been often discussed as tensions in the region have risen. Having this particular type of zone would require countries in the region to strengthen the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), for it would promote nuclear disarmament worldwide in attempts to create peace in the Middle East. As of November 2012, Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon has called upon the international community to support this idea by holding a conference in Finland with the Arab League, Russia, the United States, and the United Kingdom. Within the next few months, these nations and the Secretary General will be working towards creating long-term goals for regional stability and peace through direct engagement on the elimination of nuclear, as well as chemical and biological weapons, and their delivery systems. As tensions have risen over the question of nuclear weapons in countries such as Israel, Iran, and Pakistan, the call for such a zone has become ever more important. There are concerns in Israel over their undeclared nuclear program, and about Iran's possible nuclear weapon program whose existence Tehran has denied.

Questions:

- How does your country feel about a weapon free zone in the Middle East?
- Is your nation a signatory of the NPT?
- Which countries should this zone incorporate?
- Does your country believe that countries in the Middle East should have nuclear weapons, while others shouldn't?
- How would your country wish to implement a weapon free zone? Does this plan include nuclear weapons?
- Would there be particular resources that these nations would not allow within the region that could be used to create nuclear weapons?
- What is your countries policy when it comes to the development of nuclear energy projects?

Helpful Links:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=43594#.UOSPq-RR3ng>
<http://eurodialogue.org/Finland-will-host-2012-conference-to-start-talks-on-nuclear-weapons-free-Mideast>
http://english.pravda.ru/news/world/14-12-2012/123172-iran_iaea-0/
<http://www.tehrantimes.com/component/content/article/104476>

Topic #3: Sustainable Development and Nuclear Power

In order to maintain sustainable development, countries around the world must work together to maintain and increase natural, man-made, social, and human assets so that these resources will be available for future generations. When nations have nuclear power plants and other methods of energy production, however, maintaining these resources is not always possible especially when there are risks to surrounding ecosystems. Currently, nuclear power generates 16% of the world's electricity and is essential for sustainable development, for it keeps economic growth in pace with populations' needs within developing countries. Countries that are not as developed do not have nearly enough access to the resources needed to create such nuclear energy programs due to a lack of materials or knowledge, or because of the internalized costs to create alternative technologies. In various regions where it may be difficult to provide suitable, uncontaminated drinking water, it is said that nuclear power might be the answer for future generations, in order to help cure health issues such as dehydration, dysentery, and even help to cure other symptoms. Through nuclear power seawater can become desalinated, and this will provide plenty of safe, secure water for our population's needs around the world.

Unfortunately, there are side effects to using such technologies; the more we create nuclear power plants, the more waste disposal facilities are going to be needed along with new technologies that can neutralize such waste products. By 2035, it is predicted that countries such as China, India, and Russia will account for 40% of the world's total nuclear power supply due to the increase in construction of nuclear reactors. Since Japan's Fukushima incident in 2011, countries such as Germany, Turkey and Jordan have been debating whether or not they wish to continue interest in nuclear power facilities for safety reasons. There is also concern over disposal facilities that are located in Finland, Sweden and the United States, as these countries store toxic materials such as uranium within their borders in large quantities. Disposal facilities such as these can be utilized to create nuclear weapons even with safeguards put into place, for many of the materials are similar even if previous materials were used for medical, agricultural or peaceful ends. Due to these foreseen issues, nuclear energy facilities have been implementing fuel cycles for all forms of nuclear technologies in order to reduce the amount of radioactive waste although, not all facilities do. Some governments do not have proactive policies put into place for responding to troubles with nuclear power plants; other nations who wish to implement them need to have a plan before engaging in building such facilities.

Questions:

- Does your country have a nuclear power program already implemented or is it looking into creating one within its borders?
- Have there been any issues regarding their nuclear facilities since their program was instated?
- How does your country benefit from having nuclear energy or how could it?
- Would your country be willing to share nuclear research in order to aid other countries in building nuclear energy capabilities?
- How could nuclear plants help your country economically, socially, and environmentally?

Helpful Links:

<http://www.iaea.org/Publications/Booklets/Development/index.html>

<http://www.globalpost.com/dispatches/globalpost-blogs/commentary/nuclear-power-developing-countries-discussion>

<http://www.world-nuclear.org/sym/1997/bourd.htm>