



# GerMUN 2020

## General Assembly

### Background Guide Update

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## I. Nuclear Disarmament and International Security

### ***Recent Developments***

The importance of nuclear disarmament for reaching international peace is not ignorable. Due to the harmful nature of nuclear weapons, nuclear disarmament has been a highly debated topic. The threat that nuclear weapons represent has been shown in history. Bearing in mind the attacks of Hiroshima and Nagasaki during the Second World War the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 16 and 17 show the importance of nuclear disarmament for reaching development for all Member States.<sup>1</sup> For this reason, all Member States should work together as partners on this important issue. International peace and security can only be reached with the willingness of all Member States. This is addressed in the SDGs named above. “Peace, justice and strong institutions”, SDG 16 also relates to the goal of this discussion.

During the Security Council meeting on 2 April 2019, the International Atomic Energy Agency’s (IAEA) Director General Yukiya Amano briefed the council on the ongoing discussions regarding the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and gave a preview for the NPT Review Conference in 2020.<sup>2</sup> He ended his speech commenting on the achievements of the IAEA, for example the increasing gender equality, and the importance of agreements on international peace and security as aspects to consider during the NPT Review Conference.<sup>3</sup>

During the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly (GA) on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October 2019, the *Opening First Committee’s General Debate, Delegates Warn of Fragile Security Landscape Laced with Looming Nuclear Threats, Unregulated Weapon Innovations* (GA/DIS/3624) started.<sup>4</sup> Member States had diverse approaches towards the topic and reiterated their importance. For example, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Aidan Liddle, recognized the importance of the NPT and the membership of the permanent Member States of the Security Council.<sup>5</sup>

On 16 October, the GA decided to improve the principles of the *Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons*, which are based on disarmament, non-proliferation, and the peaceful use of nuclear energy.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations, General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (A/RES/70/1), 2015.

<sup>2</sup> IAEA, Director General Yukiya Amano, *Strengthening the Non-Proliferation Treaty ahead of the Review Conference in 2020*, 2019.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> United Nations, Department of Public Information, *Opening First Committee’s General Debate, Delegates Warn of Fragile Security Landscape Laced with Looming Nuclear Threats, Unregulated Weapon Innovations*, 2019.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> United Nations, Department of Public Information, *Despite Crumbling Disarmament Machinery, States Must Return to Multilateral Path towards Eliminating All Nuclear Weapons, Delegates Tell First Committee*, 2019.

Additionally, the President of the Council of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, Ezequiel Sabor, elaborated on the efforts of the agency, for example the inclusion of the declaration for the *International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons*, and committed to send a position paper to the 2020 NPT Review Conference.<sup>7</sup>

During the seventy-fourth session of the GA, the assembly had to vote upon 19 draft resolutions on nuclear disarmament and approved all of them after short improvements.<sup>8</sup> One was resolution A/C.1/74/L.1<sup>9</sup> dealing with the topic of *Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East* and resolution A/C.1/74/L.19<sup>10</sup> addressing the importance of *Nuclear disarmament*. In this, the GA “urges all nuclear-weapon States to take effective disarmament measures to achieve the total elimination of all nuclear weapons at the earliest possible time”.<sup>11</sup>

In conclusion, it might be said that there are measures, like the NPT, to ensure a peaceful use of nuclear energy, but at this time there is no final solution due to abuses like long-range missile tests or the ownership of nuclear weapons. To reach international peace, the most important issue to the United Nations, there is still a lot to work on, because the Member States are far from acting in absolute accordance with the treaty. This issue should be addressed in a more effecting way to sustain international peace and to prevent a Third World War due to the use of nuclear weapons.

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<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> United Nations, Department of Public Information, *First Committee Sends 19 Resolutions, Decisions to General Assembly, Issuing Strong Calls for Clearing Path towards Nuclear-Weapon-Free World*, 2019.

<sup>9</sup> United Nations, General Assembly, *Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East (A/C.1/74/L.1)*, 2019.

<sup>10</sup> United Nations, General Assembly, *Nuclear disarmament (A/C.1/74/L.19)*, 2019

<sup>11</sup> Ibid. p.5

## II. Ensuring Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable, and Modern Energy for All

### **Recent Developments**

The General Assembly (GA) resolution 73/236 (2018) is the most recent resolution adopted by the GA on this topic.<sup>12</sup> It calls for increased cooperation on the regional level, as well as among different relevant stakeholders, such as Member States' governments, international organizations and donors, to achieve universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy, increasing the share of new and renewable energy, such as solar energy, and better include developing countries in energy sector cooperation.<sup>13</sup> Member States are encouraged to spread the use of renewable energy to spheres, such as cooking and heating in private households, and to all economic sectors on a national level. To facilitate financing enhanced regional cooperation, measures such as facilitating investment by domestic and foreign banks are promoted.<sup>14</sup>

A civil society organization working in this area is Sustainable Energy for All (SEforAll).<sup>15</sup> Launched by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in 2011, it is now an independent organization working towards an accelerated achievement of SDG 7,<sup>16</sup> which is to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.<sup>17</sup> In 2018, SEforAll broadened its focus to the new sectors energy and health, and energy for displaced people.<sup>18</sup> This was done to fulfil the promise of SDG 7, which is supposed to "leave no one behind".<sup>19</sup> Intersectional work is imperative for this, as energy is closely linked to other sectors and SDGs. SEforAll therefore cooperates with other agencies, such as the UN Refugee Agency.<sup>20</sup>

Reacting to the aforementioned resolution, the Secretary-General published the report 74/265 (2019).<sup>21</sup> This report elaborated on the current activities in regard to the achievement of SDG 7 on an international and regional level, including the challenges yet to tackle.<sup>22</sup> Further, best practices of Member States were outlined and a midpoint review of the UN Decade of Sustainable Energy for All from 2014-2024 was given. Here, major issues regarding the decade of sustainable energy were discussed in the high-level dialogue on the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All 2014-2024.<sup>23</sup> Participants welcomed the progress made, but also stressed the need to accelerate the global energy transformation.<sup>24</sup>

Transforming global energy supplies towards higher sustainability further was part of the debate at the 2019 Climate Action Summit.<sup>25</sup> The main goals of this summit, where participants were asked to give detailed and realistic action plans, were leading the way for a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by

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<sup>12</sup> United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-third session, *Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all (A/RES/73/236)*, 2018.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid., p. 6.

<sup>16</sup> Sustainable Energy for All, *About us*.

<sup>17</sup> UN DESA, *Sustainable Development Goals Knowledge Platform*.

<sup>18</sup> Sustainable Energy for All, *Annual Report 2018. Leaving no one behind*, 2018.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid., p. 19.

<sup>21</sup> United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-fourth session, *Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all (A/74/265)*, 2019.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

<sup>25</sup> United Nations, Secretary-General, *Report of the Secretary-General on the 2019 Climate Action Summit and the way forward in 2020*, 2019.

45 per cent over the next decade and to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.<sup>26</sup> Here, the link between the climate crisis and sustainable energy was again emphasized.<sup>27</sup> For example, Small Island Developing States committed to produce more ambitious nationally determined contributions by 2020 in order to achieve 100% renewable energy by 2030.<sup>28</sup>

For 2020, the next steps towards 100% renewable energy are supposed to be taken. Therefore, a focus is put on the phasing out of coal, improving energy efficiency, the expansion of renewable energy for electrification, and a decarbonization of the transport sector.<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid., p. 10.

### III. Combatting Human Trafficking

#### **Recent Developments**

In recent years, the UN General Assembly (GA) Third Committee focused particular challenges around violence against women, trafficking to exploit human resources (e.g. workforce, organ-trade), and the coordination within the international system. Looking at the 73<sup>rd</sup> session of the GA and this year's session underway, three resolution on the issue of trafficking in persons have been adopted so far.

The UN General Assembly (GA) Third Committee, by adopting resolution 73/146 (2018) on trafficking in women and girls, streamlined particular challenges around SDG 5, gender discrimination, and violence against women and SDG 8.7, forced labor, especially on child labor.<sup>30</sup> The resolution calls upon all governments to punish all human traffickers involved in the most severe form of violence against women and girls, sexual exploitation.<sup>31</sup> Governments shall guarantee this by criminalizing such actions.<sup>32</sup> Stressing the need for national action also in regard to forced labor, the resolution encourages collaboration between authorities and the business sector.<sup>33</sup> In addition, it is suggested to review legal and create ethical codes to prevent forced labor, and ensure decent work and a decent employment process.<sup>34</sup>

The International Labour Organization (ILO) in 2019 released a follow-up report on the issue of forced labor relating to cross-border production.<sup>35</sup> The ILO's *Ending child labour, forced labour and human trafficking in global supply chains* is an in-depth study highlighting the dangers of goods manufactured by the use of forced labor and human trafficking thereto, not on a national but on a global level.<sup>36</sup> Core recommendations comprise regulatory measures like due diligence legislation and international trade policies banning those goods.<sup>37</sup> Responsibility to avoid abuse in recruitment processes is also highlighted.<sup>38</sup>

The dangers of illicit organ removal form a serious health threat for people who are trafficked for this purpose.<sup>39</sup> Illicit 'organ trade' long since has developed into a serious business raising sums between USD 600 million and USD 1.2 billion per year.<sup>40</sup> In 2016, the Human Rights Council (HRC) in its resolution 32/3 (2016) again took note that some of the demand arising from this business is met by trafficking in persons.<sup>41</sup> In 2018, the GA Third Committee adopted resolution 73/189 (2018), which targets the issue of trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal.<sup>42</sup> This resolution takes note with alarm that exploitation by criminal groups taking advantage of people in poverty and vulnerable situations can be traced to the lacking institutionalization of national health authorities in this regard. For this means, a central regulatory oversight is imperative in order to gain oversight of organ removal processes – and thus to prevent criminal groups

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<sup>30</sup> United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth-third session, *Human trafficking in women and girls (A/RES/73/146)*, 2018.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid., p. 10.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid., p. 1.

<sup>34</sup> Ibid., p. 11.

<sup>35</sup> United Nations, International Labour Organization, *Ending child labour, forced labour and human trafficking in global supply chains*, 2019.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid., p. 1.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid., pp. 45-53 .

<sup>38</sup> Ibid., p. 41.

<sup>39</sup> Ibid., p. 2.

<sup>40</sup> United Nations, Office on Drugs and Crime, *Assessment toolkit. Trafficking in Persons for the Purpose of Organ Removal*, 2015.

<sup>41</sup> United Nations, Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights, Thirty-second session, *Trafficking in persons, especially women and children: protecting victims of trafficking and persons at risk of trafficking, especially women and children in conflict and post-conflict situations (A/HRC/RES/32/3)*, 2016.

<sup>42</sup> United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth-third session, *Strengthening and promoting effective measures and international cooperation on organ donation and transplantation to prevent and combat trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal and trafficking in human organs (A/RES/73/189)*, 2018.

by doing so illegally. It calls upon national stakeholders to regulate transplantation processes by enlarging domestic transplantation facilities, and to set “specific processes and criteria for the authorization of every organ removal and transplantation procedure”.<sup>43</sup>

During this year’s 74<sup>th</sup> session, the Third Committee adopted resolution 74/176 (2019), which addresses the international coordination against human trafficking.<sup>44</sup> In line with the *Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons*,<sup>45</sup> it was foremost decided to convene a high-level meeting reviewing the implementation of the plan. The high-level meeting is scheduled for the 76<sup>th</sup> GA session in 2021.<sup>46</sup>

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<sup>43</sup> Ibid., p. 3-4.

<sup>44</sup> United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth-third session; *Improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons (as orally revised)* (A/RES/74/176), 2019.

<sup>45</sup> United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-fourth session, *United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons* (A/RES/64/293), 2010.

<sup>46</sup> United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth-third session, *Improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons (as orally revised)* (A/RES/74/176), 2019.