

**Forum:** Disarmament Commission (DC)

**Issue:** Full implementation of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)

**Student Officer:** Shennon Sequeira, Abdullah Odeh and Yara El Naggar

**Position:** Deputy Presidents, President

---

## Introduction

Nuclear bombs in the past have had devastating effects on the country affected and have taken the lives of thousands of innocent people. It has been regarded as a ruthless and extremely powerful and destructive tactic in combat. It was first used in 1945, where America dropped two atomic bombs in Japan, one in Hiroshima and the other in Nagasaki, as a brutal tactic to achieve their aims. Around 146,000 people were killed in Hiroshima and 80,000 in Nagasaki; however, there would be more deaths from the effects of the nuclear bomb, which had caused radiation sicknesses and cancers. As a result, the Japanese emperor gave in to the terms of the United States of America and surrendered.

As a result, many world leaders and powerful countries have developed Nuclear Warfare to show their dominance and strength to the world such as the Soviet Union which developed nuclear warfare in 1949 and Great Britain in 1952. These countries held the power of world destruction and domination. After the Cuban missile crisis, which almost led to a devastating nuclear war, Great Britain, Soviet Union and The United States of America signed the Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty in 1963. The treaty prohibited the testing of nuclear warfare in “outer space, under water and in atmosphere”. This was hailed to be the first step to the control of nuclear warfare. Furthermore, in 1996, the Comprehensive Nuclear- Test Ban treaty (CTBT) was established in the Disarmament conference in Geneva. This treaty was established in order that Nuclear weapon testing was to be comprehensively banned. Israel and 41 state members have signed the treaty apart from India, North Korea and Pakistan. However, United States of America and China are the only members of the Nuclear weapons states that have not ratified the CTBT till date.

The Comprehensive Nuclear- Test Ban Treaty is important as it helps to prevent human suffering and environmental damages that are caused by nuclear testing as well as to prevent another catastrophe like the Nagasaki and Hiroshima atomic bombings. In addition, the full implementation of the CTBT will help to strengthen the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. It is essential that this treaty is fully

implemented and ratified, as it will be a significant factor in contributing to international peace and security.

## Definition of Key Terms

### Nuclear Weapons

Nuclear weapons are explosive bombs that are made by Nuclear reactions. It was first used by America on Japan, where it has caused catastrophic effects on the country, environment and people.

### Disarmament

Disarmament is reducing weapons and military action in order to maintain international peace and security. There are conferences held to discuss matter related to disarmament such as the Disarmament Conference in Geneva.

### Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)

The Nuclear Non-proliferation treaty is an international treaty that was established in 1970, which aimed to prevent the spread of nuclear weaponry and to further achieve the goal of nuclear and general disarmament.

### Comprehensive Nuclear- Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)

The CTBT is an international treaty that bans all nuclear explosions. It was negotiated at the Disarmament conference in Geneva and was adopted by the UN in 1996.

### Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty

The Nuclear Test Ban treaty was established in 1963 that prohibited Nuclear testing in space, underwater and in the atmosphere. The United States of America, Great Britain and the Soviet Union signed the limited nuclear test ban treaty after the effects of the Cuban Missile Crisis.

## Background Information

The Comprehensive Nuclear ban Treaty (CTBT) is a treaty established in 1996 that banned all uses of Nuclear Weapons. The CTBT was negotiated and potentially established in the Disarmament Conference in Geneva. Moreover, the CTBT is regarded as the final barrier to prevent the development

of nuclear weaponry. Negotiations on the treaty had been an ongoing discussion for many years. This eventually led to the Partial Nuclear test Ban Treaty (PTBT) that was established in 1963 and is better known as the Limited Test Ban treaty, that banned the testing of nuclear weapons everywhere except underground. It was established after the events of the Cuban Missile Crisis, which had almost evolved into a nuclear war between the United States of America and the Soviet Union. However, the PTBT did not stop or reduce the nuclear proliferation and the nuclear arms race but it did reduce the amount of radioactive particles in the air. It later developed to become the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). As of 2016, China, Egypt, Israel and the United States of America have signed but not ratified the treaty but India, Pakistan and North Korea have not signed the treaty at all. Furthermore, the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty is an international organization situated in Vienna, Austria that monitors that all signed countries are abiding to the term of the treaty.

### **The 1970s - 1980s**

In 1974, a footstep closer to a comprehensive test ban was made with the Threshold Test Ban Treaty (TTBT), ratified by the US and Soviet Union, which banned underground tests with yields more than 150 kilotons. In April two years later, the two states reached agreement on the Peaceful Nuclear Explosions Treaty (PNET), which has to do with nuclear explosions outside the weapons sites discussed in the TTBT. The TTBT, states that the US and Soviet Union have come to an agreement to bar peaceful nuclear explosions (PNEs) at these other locations with yields above 150 kilotons, including group explosions with total yields in excess of 1,500 kilotons. In order for them to ensure compliance, the PNET requests that nations rely on national technical means of verification, share information on explosions, and grant on-site access to counterparties. The TTBT and PNET did not enter into effect for the US and Soviet Union until 11 December 1990.

### ***Reagan and Gorbachev***

On October 1977, three nuclear powers – the US, Great Britain and the Soviet Union – revisited the idea of a test ban. The three nuclear powers made notable progress in the late 1970s, agreeing to terms on a ban on all testing, including a temporary prohibition on PNEs, but negotiations continued to collapse over the compliance mechanisms that led to an end to negotiations ahead of Ronald Reagan's inauguration as President in 1981 such as on-site inspections, which the Soviets vehemently opposed. In 1985, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev announced a unilateral testing moratorium, and in December 1986, Reagan reaffirmed US commitment to pursue the long-term goal of a comprehensive test ban. In November 1987, negotiations on a test ban restarted, followed by a joint US-Soviet program to research underground-test detection in December 1987.

## Major Countries and Organizations Involved

### The US & Soviet Union

In the years 1962 and 1963, the President of the United States at the time, John F. Kennedy, pursued comprehensive test ban talks with Russia, but the two nations could not come to an agreement on the number of on-site inspections. Instead, the two sides agreed to the Limited Test Ban Treaty, which prohibits nuclear test explosions in the atmosphere, outer space, and underwater. Ever since the late-1960s, the eventual ratification of a comprehensive ban against nuclear testing has also been understood to be a critical part of the nuclear weapon states' duty to fulfill their nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) disarmament commitments. President Jimmy Carter again pursued to negotiate a comprehensive test ban treaty with Russia from the years 1977-1980, but that attempt also fell short as U.S.-Soviet relations were not in the best of states after Moscow's invasion of Afghanistan. In 1991, Mikhail Gorbachev, the leader of the Soviet Union, announced a unilateral nuclear test moratorium. From 1994-96, the world's nations came together to negotiate the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), which prohibits all nuclear test explosions and was made to help prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and preclude nuclear arms competition. On September 24, 1996, the United States was the first country to ratify the CTBT, which prohibits all nuclear weapon test explosions or other nuclear detonations, however, the Senate rejected ratification in 1999 and the treaty has yet to enter into force. In recent years, international support for the CTBT has developed and the global test ban monitoring and verification system has matured.

### North Korea

Three countries have tested nuclear weapons since the CTBT opened for signature and ratification in 1996. India and Pakistan both carried out two types of detonations in 1998. North Korea carried out six announced tests in 2006, 2009, 2013, two in 2016 and one in 2017. All six North Korean tests were detected by the International Monitoring System set up by the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization Preparatory Commission. A North Korean test is believed to have taken place in January 2016, evidenced by an "artificial earthquake" measured as a magnitude 5.1 by the U.S. Geological Survey. In September 2017 supposedly first successful North Korean hydrogen bomb test took place. It was estimated to have an explosive yield of 120 kilotons. In April, North Korea's vice foreign minister stated: "We've got a powerful nuclear deterrent already in our hands, and we certainly will not keep our arms crossed in the face of a US pre-emptive strike." The actions that North Korea are taking are blatant violations of the treaty however yet again, they have not signed the CTBT. This presents many indirect ramifications as other countries, who are adhering to the terms of the treaty, may be greatly concerned with what North Korea or any other country testing nuclear weapons for that matter intend to do with those weapons and would much rather prepare for any attack by testing their own. So,

from a certain perspective, it can be seen to be as unfair and irrational in the eyes of the countries that have ratified the treaty.

### The ATOM Project

The ATOM Project is an international campaign, whose primary mission is to build international support for the abolishment of nuclear testing. ATOM stands for "Abolish Testing. Our Mission." The goal is to achieve in force the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty via online petitions and other methods. Through online petitions, it is easier to reach out to large amounts of people within nations and get them to agree to the terms of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and raise awareness in favor of this treaty of be in effect. In 2013, the ATOM Project began a world tour visiting Moscow, New York City, Washington, D.C., Vienna, Berlin, Madrid, and Tokyo. On September 4th, 2013, the ATOM Project displayed their idea to the United Nations headquarters in New York City along the agenda of International Day against Nuclear Testing. On May 6, 2014 the five largest nuclear powers signed a guarantee not to use nuclear weapons in the territory of Central Asia. The powers: Britain, China, Russia, USA and France signed the 'Protocol to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia' (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan)

### Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
August 1942	Manhattan Project established in US
16 July 1945	US conducts its first ever nuclear test
6 August 1945	US drops atomic bomb on Hiroshima
9 August 1945	US dropped a second bomb on Nagasaki
1 November 1952	US tests the first hydrogen bomb
17 February 1958	UK disarmament campaign formed
1 December 1959	Nuclear tests banned in Antarctica
30 October 1961	Largest ever bomb test conducted
19-29 October 1962	Cuban Missile Crisis occurs
12 June 1982	A million people rally for disarmament
11-12 October 1986	US and Soviet leaders discuss abolition
May 1998	India and Pakistan conduct nuclear tests
9 October 2006	North Korea conducts nuclear test
27 March 2017	Nuclear ban treaty negotiations begin

7 July 2017

UN adopts nuclear weapon ban treaty

## Relevant UN Treaties and Events

- Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, 10 September 1996 (**A/RES/50/245**)

## Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

On March 30, 2012, the National Research Council published a report regarding the CTBT, which addressed Obama's Administration's willingness to ratify the treaty. However, this report was not convincing enough to urge other nations to do the same. Additionally, in September of 2016, the Security Council held a meeting in which resolution 2310 was adopted, which also urged member states that have not signed or ratified the CTBT to do so. John Kerry, the Secretary of State of the United States, supported this statement and claimed that he believes the U.S. should and will contribute to ensure the eradication of nuclear weapons. It is evident that no nation is willing to eliminate their use or production of nuclear weapons without the guarantee that all other nations will do the same.

## Possible Solutions

The first step towards the implementation of the CTBT is to guide nations to form a mutual opinion on the issue and hence come to an agreement. Therefore, those countries hesitant about or against the implementation of the CTBT must be redirected to secure their support. Firstly, an immediate international meeting must be held to discuss the CTBT and each nation's view regarding it. Countries that have not yet ratified the treaty must be demonstrated the benefits of implementing the CTBT, both socially and economically, on a worldwide basis. This can be done by raising awareness; the United Nations and/or International Atomic Energy Agency should construct advertisement campaigns around the world that highlight the damage that can be done through the use of nuclear weapons and how the eradication of such weapons will benefit all members of society. These points can be further elaborating during UN meetings held at the Security Council or other related conferences.

Secondly, reluctant nations should be encouraged to focus more on implementing and maintaining defensive military mechanisms rather than offensive ones. Rather than relying on the potential use of nuclear weapons, which even the testing of can result in injury to surrounding citizens, countries should instead be persuaded to invest more in defense systems to increase their security and therefore abolish their "need" for nuclear weapons. They may also invest in other offensive methods that do not require testing that is potentially harmful to innocent civilians and are instead only used to directly target enemies in the event of a foreign attack or war.

Furthermore, if some countries are particularly adamant on ratifying the CTBT, extreme measures may be taken, whereby neighbouring or closely associated countries temporarily suspend some relations with uncooperative countries, particularly in terms of trade. Reduced trade and collaboration with other countries may alert these countries of the severity of the situation and encourage them to ratify the treaty. This tactic, however, should only be used as a last resort as this can cause permanent strain between countries and lead to potential future rifts.

## Bibliography

A/RES/50/245 - E. N.p., n.d. Web. 22 Oct. 2017. <<http://www.undocs.org/A/RES/50/245>>.

"Adopting Resolution 2310 (2016), Security Council Calls for Early Entry into Force of Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, Ratification by Eight Annex 2 Hold-Out States | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases." United Nations. United Nations, n.d. Web. 22 Oct. 2017. <<https://www.un.org/press/en/2016/sc12530.doc.htm>>.

Robinson, Ambassador C Paul. "The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty: Questions and Challenges." The Heritage Foundation. N.p., n.d. Web. 22 Oct. 2017. <<http://www.heritage.org/arms-control/report/the-comprehensive-test-ban-treaty-questions-and-challenges>>.

United Nations, History, 2017, [www.history.com/topics/cold-war/nuclear-test-ban-treaty](http://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/nuclear-test-ban-treaty).

"Comprehensive Ban Treaty." Summary of the CTBT | Project for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, CTBT, [projectforthectbt.org/treaty](http://projectforthectbt.org/treaty).

"CTBT." Highlighting the Importance of CTBT, 2017, [www.ctbto.org/press-centre/highlights/2009/importance-of-ctbt-stressed-at-npt-prepcom/](http://www.ctbto.org/press-centre/highlights/2009/importance-of-ctbt-stressed-at-npt-prepcom/).

"Importance of CTBT." CTBTO, CTBTO, 2017, [www.ctbto.org/press-centre/highlights/2008/importance-of-ctbt-ratification-discussed-at-international-cooperation-workshop-for-states-from-the-pacific/](http://www.ctbto.org/press-centre/highlights/2008/importance-of-ctbt-ratification-discussed-at-international-cooperation-workshop-for-states-from-the-pacific/).