

Nuclear Weapons: Current Disarmament Efforts

Hyunji Kim, Setsu Morii, Constance Hart de Keating, Minje Kang, Abaigael Callahan

Nuclear Disarmament

- France's Stance
- United States' Stance
- North Korea & Six Party Talks
- United Nations
- 2020 Vision Campaign

France's Stance

Efforts Towards Disarmament:

France has been a Nuclear Weapon State since 1992. Since that year, France has:

- Halved its number of Nuclear Warheads
- Closed 2 warhead factories
- Abandoned all ground to ground missiles
- Dismantled the airbase holding the ground to ground missile silos

France's Stance cont.

Nuclear Doctrine:

Principle of Deterrence

- Intimidation
- Protection against Blackmailing
- Defense by Retaliation
- Development of Precise Nuclear Weapons

As long as the threat of Nuclear Weapons exists, France won't abandon Weapons entirely

United States' Stance

Nuclear Doctrine

- While the United States has signed the NPT, they maintain a significant nuclear arsenal
- They also maintain a “first-use” clause
- While the United States is for the full disarmament of Nuclear Weapons, they would also rather be the last player with nuclear weapons

United States' Stance, cont.

Efforts towards Disarmament

The Obama Administration holds a Nuclear Weapon-Free world among its goals

- It has pledged to reduce its arsenal by one-third to the 1,550 warhead limit established by the New START (STrategic Arms Reduction Treaty)
- The United States also hosted the first Nuclear Security Summit in 2010, and plans to host the fourth (and presumably final) Summit in 2016

New START

- In 2010, Russia and the U.S. signed a treaty that would have both countries reduce their operational nuclear warheads to a limit of 1,550 each
- However, as of 2015, both countries actually increased their stores:
 - Russia increased from 1,512 in 2014 to 1,643 in 2015
 - The U.S. increased from 1,584 in 2014 to 1,642 in 2015
- Both countries reaffirmed their commitment to the treaty in weeks following the report

North Korea

- North Korea continues to hold weapons as a security guarantee
- It is currently unclear as to whether or not the main reactor is fully functional to create more warheads

Six Party Talks

- The talks consist of the United States, Russia, China, North Korea, South Korea, and Japan and started in 2003.
- From 2003-2007, there was not much progress
- The talks generally cover:
 - The weapons being a “Security Guarantee” for North Korea
 - Construction of Light Water Reactors
 - Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy
 - The Normalization of Diplomatic and Trade Relationships
 - Verifiable and Irreversible Disarmament
- As of 2009, the talks have fallen through, North Korea withdrew from the NPT, and resumed their nuclear program

United Nations

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)

- Valid since 1970
- Under the Treaty:
 - A Nuclear State promises to never transfer nuclear weapons to a non-nuclear state
 - Nuclear-free states promise to never manufacture or acquire nuclear weapons

U.N.I.D.I.R.

United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

- Founded in 1980 by General Assembly
- Head Office in Geneva
- Role: Mediator of states and expert groups in disarmament negotiation research, publishes activities, and acts as a think-tank (i.e., nuclear issues, refugee safety, cyber warfare)

2020 Vision Campaign

- Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons by 2020 conducted by the Mayor of Peace (NGO est. ~1982, appeals the inhumanities of nuclear war)
- The Headquarters is in Ypres, Belgium, with Hiroshima as current President city and Nagasaki as one of the Vice President cities.
- Aim of the Campaign:
 - Disarmament of all operational nuclear weapons, with the dismantling completed by 2020
 - Starting the Negotiation for the Conclusion of Nuclear Weapons Convention, with the conclusion in 2015
 - The “Cities Are Not Targets” Petition and the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol have been created to stress the inhumanity of attacking civilian targets

2020 Vision Campaign cont.

- As of 2015, over 2 million signatures have been gathered
- However, the government of Japan did not agree to the Joint Statement of the Humanitarian Effects of Nuclear Weapons at the 2015 NPT Review Conference
 - Japan is under the Nuclear Umbrella of the United States
 - The stance of the government is often different from many organizations in the country

Conclusion

- Understandably, it seems to be those outside of governments that are working hardest towards disarmament
- Only time will tell if these Nuclear States keep their promises of steady disarmament