

Forum:	General Assembly 1 st Committee
Issue:	Disarmament and Development in Africa
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Position:	Deputy Chair

Introduction

Disarmament and development are two different but mutually reinforcing processes that have been of great importance around the globe. One region that has been strongly involved with these advances is the African continent. In an attempt to solve issues regarding arms proliferation and nuclear weaponry, the General Assembly, by its Resolution 502 (VI), which passed in January 1952, established the United Nations Disarmament Commission. This commission functions under the Security Council and is in charge of dealing with disarmament issues.

Disarmament issues have been present for centuries. However, a fundamental event that led to further awareness on this matter was World War II. It was the deadliest military conflict in history, as over 60 million people were killed. This was predominantly due to fast developing arm programs in the nations involved along with various new technologies. Weapons such as the semi-automatic rifle, the missile, and the atomic bomb were created, while the already existing weapons, including machine guns, planes, and tanks, were further developed. After the war ended, nations realized the immense danger that lies in weapons of mass destruction and opted to cooperate and disarm in fear of another world war breaking out which could ultimately lead to the destruction of the world.

Despite the disarmament attempts of several nations following WW2, the Cold War followed shortly after, causing a great fear of a potential nuclear war. Although Africa was not directly involved in the Cold War, it is very clear that the continent was severely affected by the war, many of these effects even led up to truly devastating outcomes. For example, during the years of the Cold War, certain African nations, such as Angola, Mozambique, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo became independent from Western rule. These nations provided the stages for bloody confrontations between Eastern and Western forces. This was mainly due to the United States, South Africa and China attempting to prevent the spread of Communism while Cuba and numerous African nations, including Angola and Mozambique, supported it. Eventually, African nations stopped relying on both Soviet and American support

and began to produce their own weapons. Thus, arm proliferation became a hugely alarming issue in the region.

In order for a region to fully disarm, development processes are necessary. Disarmament and development are two distinct yet strongly related topics because without disarmament, there is no peace and development is hindered. Excessive armament and military spending can negatively impact development as financial, technological, and human resources divert from development objectives. The spread and availability of armament often leads to endangering stability and welfare, thus challenging development efforts and initiatives. Meanwhile, disarmament leads to more stable international, national and local situations which are favorable to development. Africa has taken several approaches towards development, most notable through organizations such as the African Union which encourage cultural, political, economical, technological and environmental reforms. In addition to that, individual nations have taken steps in order to develop, such as South Africa dismantling its nuclear weaponry in the 1990s. Nonetheless, it is clear that African nations are in need of further disarmament and development as armed conflicts continue to surge and countries find themselves overwhelmed with social, political, and economic limitations.

Definition of Key Terms

Disarmament

Disarmament is defined as the “the reduction or withdrawal of military forces and weapons.” However, the term goes far beyond that as the The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) establishes, “Disarmament is not only about eliminating weapons; it is also about creating opportunities to think about security in new ways, to re-prioritize our budgets, and to rethink our sense of ourselves as nations in community with one another.” Currently, bodies or groups such as the International Atomic energy Association (IAEA) exist in order to oversee disarmament efforts. Nevertheless, disarmament can occur without supervision from a specific body.

Development

There are two main aspects within the definition of development within the United Nations. It can be defined as “the systematic use of scientific and technical knowledge to meet specific objectives or requirements” or as “the process of economic and social transformation that is based on complex cultural, political, economical, technological and environmental factors and their interactions.”

Defense

Defense, in its broadest sense, is defined as the “capability of resisting attack.” In a governmental aspect, as expressed by the UN, it can also be defined as “the military and industrial aggregate that authorizes and supervises arms production appropriations for defense contract.”

Collective Security

Collective security is understood as a “system by which states have attempted to prevent or stop wars. Under a collective security arrangement, an aggressor against any one state is considered an aggressor against all other states, which act together to repel the aggressor.”

Weapon of Mass Destruction (WMD)

The UNODA defines a weapon of mass destruction as a nuclear, radiological, chemical or biological weapon that can kill and significantly harm large numbers of humans or bring great damage to man-made structure, natural structures, or the biosphere.

Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) defines SALWs as “any man-portable lethal weapon that expels or launches, is designed to expel or launch, or may be readily converted to expel or launch a shot, bullet or projectile by the action of an explosive, excluding antique small arms and light weapons or their replicas.”

Background Information

Impacts of the Cold War

Disarmament issues have been present for centuries. Temporarily, after World War II, nations strived for increased disarmament as an attempt to prevent future wars. Nonetheless, this trend was discontinued in the Cold War. Nations became fearful about a possible nuclear war after the Cuban Missile Crisis, when an American spy plane reported sighting the construction of a Soviet nuclear missile base in Cuba. This was followed by both the United States and the Soviet Union aggressively developing and stockpiling nuclear weapons. The nuclear weapons production grew rapidly as the United States reached its arsenal peak in 1967, with 31,255 nuclear weapons and the Soviet Union in 1986, with 40,159 nuclear weapons. After the end of the Cold War, the United States and the Soviet Union significantly reduced their arsenals, but the world was far from disarmed.

Despite the fact that Africa was not directly involved in the Cold War, the continent played a crucial role in the conflict. First of all, it is fundamental to note that during the Cold War, much of Africa was part of European colonial empires. During the 1950s and 60s, most decolonization processes began in Africa. Colonies were able to become independent due to the poor economic position of European nations, such as the United Kingdom, France, and Belgium, after being involved in the two world wars. These former colonies were now inde-

pendent and in control of their resources, which they hoped to sell in order to solidify their position economically. Thus, the United States and the Soviet Union became interested in these nations and the potential they had.

The first African nation that became independent was Egypt. Gamal Abdel Nasser rose to power in 1952 and promoted socialism and nationalism. Egypt gained the support of the Soviet Union, who provided Nasser with both heavy and light armament. Another nation that obtained Soviet support was Algeria, as the Soviet Union supported the National Liberation Front, Algeria's main revolutionary organization against the French. From that point on, several African nations continued to gain Soviet support as they fought for independence from Europe. Many African nations, including Mozambique and Angola, became republics heavily influenced by the Soviet Union and communism.

While the Soviet Union supported socialist and communist states, the United States mostly supported white-minority ruled states. For example, the United States demonstrated clear support towards South Africa as they saw economic opportunities for South African investment. Imports and exports between the two nations reached many millions of dollars. In addition to that, a policy known as the Tar Baby Option was adopted during Richard Nixon's presidency, which encouraged the United States to maintain close relations with white rulers in South Africa. Another nation that was supported by the United States was Zaire, known today as the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Zairean leader Joseph Mobutu made numerous public stands against Communism, which led to an increase in Western support.

Arms Manufacturing in Africa

Eventually, African nations stopped relying on Soviet and American support and began to manufacture their own arms. South Africa, for example, is considered to have one of the most advanced arms industry of the non-Western world ever since the 1960s, when the nation pursued research into weapons of mass destruction. In total, six weapons were assembled but eventually dismantled by the government in the 1990s. Even though South Africa became the first nation to give up all of the nuclear arms it had developed, the country was far from disarmed. Today, South Africa continues to produce and possess powerful armament. Some of the locally made weapons include transport and attack helicopters, armored personnel carriers, military trucks, internal security vehicles, assault rifles and hand guns. The nation's weaponry and military equipment are in high demand in countries around the globe such as the United States, China, Sweden, and Zambia.

Ethiopia is another nation with very impressive armament, according to a report released by the Agence France-Presse (AFP). With a defense budget of approximately \$400 million dollars, Ethiopia produces small arms, rifles, and grenades propelled by rockets. Egypt too has been producing its own arms for over a century, products include warships,

artillery, rifles, bombs and ammunition. Other African nations producing arms at alarming rates include Sudan, Kenya, Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

Even though there has been a noticeable increase in the amount of African nations who produce their own arms, more than half of the nations in the continent obtain military equipment from China. China has been exporting arms to Africa for decades. However, they are now exporting more advanced equipment, such as armed unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). This is a clear threat against international security, especially because nations are not always transparent about the quantity of arms sales and stockpiles. In addition, Chinese-manufactured weapons and tools have spread across Africa through illicit trade and have been found in the possession of armed groups and government forces in places like South Sudan, Darfur, and the Central African Republic, causing a greater concern over international security.

The rapid increase of arm production in Africa has led to several threats against national and international security. For example, in Sudan, it has been discovered that the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), who is designated a terrorist organization, is secretly operating a weapons factory in Sudan to provide terrorist organizations in Africa and the Middle East with arms. Meanwhile, in Kenya, the Kenya Ordnance Factories Corporation (KOFCC) has been manufacturing small arms since 1997. However, these factories refuse to open up for independent verification of their facilities despite the fact that Kenya signed and ratified the UN Arms Trade Treaty, which considers transparency in arms production a fundamental necessity.

In addition to that, nations such as the United States, Russia and China often export arms to Africa illicitly and this has fueled numerous conflicts in the region.

In addition to that, the export of arms from countries such as the United States, Russia and China to Africa, which is often illicit, has fueled numerous conflicts in the region.

Development

Considerable progress had been made in order to protect and maintain international security. For example, the UN implemented the DDR program, which strives to obtain peace, political stability, security, national reconciliation and socio-economic reconstruction through disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration. Specifically, several improvements have taken place in order to reduce arms usage in the African region. From 2003-2005, an estimated 17,371 weapons were collected from the continent. Also, a comprehensive demobilization and reintegration program, which was adopted on February 2006, aimed to reintegrate 19,000 ex-combatants, and collect the equivalent of 10,000 weapons and munitions. In January of that same year, the Democratic Republic of Congo along with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) signed a \$17 million agreement in order to support demobilization and reintegration program.

In addition to that, Africa has improved its disarmament issues by solving instabilities and circumstances that are not directly arms-related. Crucial root causes throughout the continent include political, economic, and social inequalities, economic stagnation, extreme poverty, high unemployment rates, poor government service, environmental degradation, and individual (economic) incentives to fight. Africa's development priorities were identified in the African Common Position on the post-2015 development agenda. These include the African Union Agenda 2063, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Africa has embarked on the first ten-year implementation plan for the achievement of the African Union Agenda 2063. This agenda puts emphasis on enhancing inclusive and social progresses, along with agriculture development, infrastructure development and industrialization in order to improve job creation and poverty eradication. In addition, The United Nations is directly supporting the efforts of the African Union, the New Partnership for Africa's Development, and local African economic communities in order to achieve an effective implementation of these new agendas.

There are certain limitations that challenge Africa's opportunities for development. For example, the slowdown and recessions in the economies of major trading partners and low commodity prices. However, several African nations have been able to strengthen their own economies through improving macroeconomic management and economic diversification. Countries are making great efforts to promote regional and national integration, including through the Tripartite Free Trade Area.

Also, an important factor that has contributed towards development in Africa has been the considerably deepened relationship between the United Nations and the African Union. This includes the adoption of the 2017 Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security for a better achievement of Africa's Integration and Development Agenda 2017-2027. The United Nations is actively supporting the Silencing the Guns Initiative, which was created by the African Union. The main goal of this initiative is to end all wars in Africa by 2020.

Both agendas mentioned, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union Agenda 2063, recognize the crucial role of peace and stability as components of great importance while attempting to reach sustainable development. This is mainly due to the fact that war, along with social, political and economical instabilities, can significantly slow down development efforts and even prevent them from happening. Along with this, Africa is currently addressing its emerging challenges to peace, security, and development with the support of the United Nations and other development partners.

Apart from that, there are certain nations that have participated actively in order to develop. As one of the most vocal states in favor of nuclear disarmament, South Africa supports proposals to create a new legally binding framework containing clear timelines and benchmarks with the objective of achieving and maintaining a world free of nuclear weapons. Despite developing nuclear weapons during the 1960s-1980s, the country dismantled all six nuclear weapons and is now recognized for its policies against nuclear proliferation.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC)

This organization was established by the United Nations in 1985. Its objective is promoting and achieving peace, security, and development in the continent. The UNREC mainly focusses on:

- Promoting regional and sub-regional cooperation
- Providing technical assistance to African States
- Building capacities of national authorities in controlling arms and ammunition
- Promoting disarmament and arms-control through outreach and advocacy

African Union (AU)

The AU is currently partnering with the United Nations in order to promote development in the region. Furthermore, The AU developed the African Union Agenda 2063, which has a pre-established set of development goal that the AU hopes to achieve in Africa in the upcoming years. Besides, the organization is strongly involved with disarmament as it created the Silencing the Guns Initiative, which strives to end all wars in Africa by 2020.

South Africa

South Africa possesses one of the most powerful African militaries and is recognized as one of the African nations with most arms. Though once possessing nuclear weapons, these were eventually dismantled in the 1990s. This furthered development in the nation as budgets which were previously designated to nuclear weapon research and development were now designated to economical and social reform programs and policies.

Somalia

Disarmament is necessary in Somalia due to the armed conflicts that have taken place in the country throughout the last decades. Somalia went through a civil war in 1986 and violence persisted for over two decades. Although the Somali attempted to disarm militias in 2006, no long-term progress was achieved. Development is highly needed in Somalia as it is classified by the United Nations as the least developed country in the world.

Sudan and South Sudan

South Sudan is the world's most recently created nation, as it decided to become independent from Sudan in 2011. There have been great tensions between the two countries

due to the dispute pertaining to oil. Hence, both countries have resorted to the usage of arms, which has led to atrocious consequences, such as mass killings and and a split army.

Democratic Republic of Congo

There have been two main wars in Congo, the most recent one ending in 2003. This led to massive arms proliferation which caused a rise in arm trafficking. The UN intervened due to rebellions and massacres that were taking place after the nation's president was overthrown in 1996.

United States of America (USA)

The USA is the world's largest exporter of arms, exporting over 40 billion arms each year. It is strongly related to disarmament issues in Africa as over 30 African nations purchase arms from the country. This too has led to the illicit trade of arms, as it is estimated that over half of the arms transported from the USA to Africa have been bought illegally.

Russian Federation

The Russian Federation is the second largest exporter of arms. Similarly to the United States, it accounts for a large portion of the arms in Africa due to both legal and illegal purchase. In addition to that, during the Cold War, the USSR provided arms to several African nations, such as Ghana, Egypt, and Mozambique, in order to fight Western rule and occupation.

United Nations Development Program (UNDP)

The UNDP is currently working to eradicate poverty and reduce inequalities through sustainable development. Currently, the UNDP is supporting several African nations, including Somalia, providing public goods and work with the objectives of accelerating socio-economic recovery and create long-term change.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of Event
January 1952:	Creation of the United Nations Disarmament Commission(UNDC) under the Security Council
October 1962	Cuban Missile Crisis takes place
January 1966	UNDP is created

July 1968	The NPT is first opened for signatures
June 1978	First special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament was established as a subsidiary organ
October 1996	First Congo War takes place leading to massive arm use
January 1998	The General Assembly, through its resolution 52/492, established that the UNDC is to focus on nuclear proliferation.
August 1998	Second Congo War takes place
July 2002	African Union forms
February 2003	Civil war begins in Darfur and arm usage once again increases in the continent
February 2009	War in Somalia starts and this leads to international outrage and a greater interest in solving disarmament issues in Africa.

Relevant UN Treaties and Events

The United Nations has created multiple treaties, conventions, and resolutions regarding world-wide nuclear proliferation and disarmament efforts. Additionally, several reports and resolutions specific to disarmament and development in Africa have been passed as shown below:

- Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT): aims to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and technology while cooperating in the peaceful usage of nuclear energy. Currently, South Sudan is the only African nation that has never been a party to the treaty (1995, **S/RES/984**)
- Biological Weapons Convention: Multilateral treaty banning the production of biological weapons (10 April 1972)
- Chemical Weapons Convention: Outlaws the production, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons (13 January 1993)
- African Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zone Treaty: Establishes Africa as a nuclear-weapon free zone (11 April 1996)
- General Assembly Resolution for New Partnership for Africa's Development: promotes progress in implementation and international support to further development in the region (2006, **RES/61/229**)

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

Over the last decades, there have been several attempts to solve issues within disarmament and development. Perhaps the most important treaty in regards to disarmament is

the NPT, which aims to decrease nuclear weaponry and prevent its widespread. The success of the NPT is clearly debatable as non-NTP-designated nuclear weapons states have been able to develop and stockpile nuclear weapons. However, it was noticeably beneficial in the African region as no nation currently possess nuclear armament. Apart from that, several conventions have taken place in order to bring attention to the usage of arms, specifically, biological and chemical weapons. On the topic of development, there has been an increase in international concern as the General Assembly Resolution 61/229 was passed. This resolution was created to improve international support in Africa and promote development efforts.

A fundamental change that led to positive outcomes was the creation of the African Union. This organization is focused on achieving full development in Africa and has led to educational, social, political, agricultural, and technological improvements throughout the region. However, there is still improvement that has to be done. Achieving a fully disarmed society is challenging in Africa not only because of the production of arms in the country, but also due to the massive export from countries such as China, the United States and Russia.

Possible Solutions

In order to solve this issue, it is important to implement initiatives for peace. These must include respect for human rights, freedom of opinion and expression, the principle of access to power by means of a popular vote carried out in conditions of transparency and fairness, alternation of power, and respect for cultural and political rights of minorities.

Also, the creation of further resolutions and treaties could strongly contribute towards solving these issues. However, it is of great importance to give African nations a vote and voice when treating possible resolutions for their disarmament issues, as several resolutions have been created by Western countries with little to no influence from the African continent. When dealing with disarmament, it is vital to opt for negotiation and nonviolent processes as the use of force will only lead to an increase in arms proliferation. Besides that, it is fundamental to target the root causes, such as lack of education, equality, and opportunity as these are often the causes of armed issues. There exist several specific approaches that could be taken.

Promoting Disarmament and Non-proliferation education

Education is a critically fundamental element regarding the achievement of Promoting disarmament and sustainable peace. Disarmament and non-proliferation education focuses mainly on the reduction, control, and elimination of weapons of all kinds in order to prevent armed violence and armed conflicts. Hence, it is pivotal to impart knowledge on disarmament and non-proliferation to a large range of groups including, but not limited to youth, media, women, and national authorities. In addition, it is necessary to engage and interact with

stakeholders in order to stimulate discussion on socially accepted proliferation and use of arms as well as illicit arms trafficking and proliferation

Establishing institutions specifically dedicated to disarmament and development

Although certain organizations, such as the UNREC and the AU, currently exist to promote development in Africa, it is clear that the establishment of further institutions would be beneficial. As the UNREC and the AU focus on a wide range of areas, it is important to create organizations and institutions dedicated to specific aspects within disarmament and development; for example, establishing an institution dedicated solely to economic development in Africa.

Implementing policies to prevent arms trafficking

Policies such as improved licensing and oversight of dealers, banning high-risk firearms, and screening of all firearm purchasers could be implemented in African nations that allow gun ownership to civilians, such as Kenya and South Africa. This would not only lead to a more regulated use of firearms but also, it would prevent arms trafficking as it is mostly carried out after illegal purchase.

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Forum:	General Assembly 1 st Committee
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Introduction

With tensions running high globally and international security always being in a perilous state of instability, nuclear disarmament is more important today than it has ever been before. While the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) was perhaps the most significant and certainly the most recognizable step in the journey towards nuclear weapon disarmament, there is still much work that needs to be done today.

The United Nations is heavily involved in this process of international nuclear disarmament, with organizations such as the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly (UN GA 1) focusing on disarmament and international security. Ever since the first resolution adopted by the UN GA, which called for the “control of atomic energy to the extent necessary to ensure its use only for peaceful purpose” (*UNODA*), Member States have adopted multilateral treaties aiming to increase global stability and peace.

However, progress towards achieving global nuclear weapon disarmament has been slowing down. Despite a surge in disarmament efforts after the Cold War, recent efforts to increase militarization and even nuclear tests by UN Member States have strongly limited global efforts to dismantle nuclear weapons. The P5 are all still in possession of nuclear arsenals exceeding an estimated 10,000 warheads and other states also possess an estimated number of nuclear warheads greater than 300, with current disarmament programs lagging and modernization programs continuing. Non-P5 states India, Pakistan and the DPRK are also believed to be in possession of nuclear weapons, have, however, not yet signed the NPT. Some of these states have also added to current nuclear escalation, such as the DPRK with recent tests of what are believed to be intercontinental ballistic missiles.

Furthermore, the most recent renewal conference of the NPT in 2015 failed to create a “consensus outcome document with any substance” (*UNU Center for Public Research*), raising questions towards the international agreement of pursuing global nuclear disarmament. Hence, effective debate on this issue must focus on re-establishing a global path to-

wards nuclear disarmament and ensure the cooperation of all Member States.

Definition of Key Terms

Nuclear weapon

A nuclear weapon, as defined by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), is a Weapon of Mass Destruction (WMD) powered by a nuclear reaction, including atom bombs, hydrogen bombs, fission bombs, and fusion bombs.

Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, also known as the NPT, is a treaty aiming to reduce global use and production of nuclear weapons, with the ultimate objective of achieving complete global nuclear disarmament. It is signed by all Member States, excluding India, Israel, Pakistan, South Sudan and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), which announced its withdrawal in 2003. It includes three pillars focusing on nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful applications of nuclear power, respectively.

NPT-Certified Nuclear-Weapon States

The Non-Proliferation Treaty defines only the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France and China to be "NPT-Certified Nuclear-Weapon states", also known as P5 nations. These are the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, all of which possess nuclear weapons and have manufactured or used these prior to 1967.

Nuclear-Weapon-Possessor-States

On top of the P5 nations, there are also further Member States in possession of nuclear weapons. India, Pakistan and Israel are in possession of nuclear weapons, while some nations also believe the DPRK to be in possession of such weapons (the DPRK itself claims it possesses functioning nuclear weapons). Pakistan and North Korea have all also not signed the NPT. Furthermore, albeit ambiguous official communication, Israel is also likely in possession of nuclear weapons, bringing the total number of nuclear-armed states to nine.

Non-nuclear-weapon states

Non-nuclear states are all those that do not possess nuclear weapons and have signed the NPT. States with nuclear weapons on their soil under foreign control are also non-nuclear-weapon states. For example, there is a disputed number of nuclear weapons, controlled by the U.S. army, on German territory, intended for use by Germany in the event of a NATO-involved armed conflict. While these nuclear weapons are in Germany, they are not controlled by Germany, making Germany a non-nuclear state which has also signed the NPT.

Nuclear-weapon-free zone

A nuclear-weapon-free zone, or NWFZ, is defined by UNODA as a geographical area in which there is a permanent absence of nuclear weapons. These zones take the form of a treaty or convention which must be subjected to regular international verification and controls. For example, the [Treaty of Tlatelolco](#) created the first zone, prohibiting nuclear weapons in Southeast Asia.

Background Information

Brief history on the development of nuclear weapons

Nuclear weapons were first successfully developed and tested by the USA during the Second World War, followed by a rapid global expansion of nuclear weapons programs. Since then, a total of 10 states have or are suspected to have developed and tested nuclear weapons. The following sub-sections provide a brief history on the development of nuclear weapons.

World War II

World War II accelerated the development of nuclear weapons due to the interest of multiple involved states, including the USA and Germany. However, only the USA developed nuclear weapons before the end of WW2, famously ending the Pacific War with the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The bombing was the first and only use of nuclear weapons in warfare, killing an estimated number of civilians greater than 100,000. Shortly after WW2, when the United Nations was founded, international security and disarmament took priority, leading to a short-term trend of disarmament. This ended with the rise of the Cold War, which was marked by proliferation.

Cold War

After the successful development of nuclear weapons by the USA, the Soviet Union was the second state to successfully test nuclear weapons. By 1964, the P5 had all acquired nuclear weapons, being the first five states to do so. The Cold War caused

for rapid increases in nuclear weapons stock piles, peaking around 1985, as states pursued the “deterrence” strategy. It’s a strategy based on large nuclear arsenals in order to threaten nuclear war, making any conventional warfare unlikely as it would escalate and likely end in an nuclear war detrimental to all involved parties.

Involvement of other nations

Other nations have since also developed nuclear weapons. India, Pakistan, the DPRK and Israel are all not signatories of the NPT and are believed to be in the possession of nuclear weapons. South Africa also developed nuclear weapons, however disbanded its nuclear arsenal completely in 1991, then signing the NPT.

Non-Proliferation Treaty

The Non-Proliferation Treaty is globally perceived as the most significant step towards international nuclear disarmament. Shortly after the use of the atomic weapons in WWII, international bodies, including the United Nations, began focusing on the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Recognizing the immense power of such weapons, member states realized the importance of safeguarding and the proper development of nuclear weapons. Following the establishment of the IAEA, the International Atomic Energy Agency, negotiations on limiting nuclear proliferation began in 1958. The final treaty, agreeing on global progression towards nuclear disarmament, was drafted and signed in 1968, becoming effective in 1970. The treaty is reviewed every five years in the NPT Review Conference, aimed at setting more short-term goals for disarmament. The last Review Conference was in 2015, meaning the next one will be in 2020.

Issues addressed in the NPT

The NPT is split into three main pillars, including (1.) nuclear non-proliferation, (2.) disarmament, and (3.) promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Pillar 1, nuclear non-proliferation, includes articles that nuclear states shall not “transfer to any recipient whatsoever nuclear weapons” and pledge “not in any way to assist, encourage, or induce any non-nuclear-weapon State to manufacture” nuclear weapons, forming the foundation of the NPT (Article I). It also designates the P5 to be Nuclear-Weapon-Possessor-States, as defined in the “Key Terms” section.

The second pillar of the NPT, disarmament, obligates member states to solely engage in “negotiations in good faith” on nuclear disarmament (Article VI). The P5-nations, defined as Nuclear-Weapon-Possessor-States, have bound themselves to disarming their nuclear arsenal and solely pursuing the peaceful use of nuclear power. While nuclear stockpiles have decreased since the negotiation of the NPT, the ambiguity of the second pillar in particular has been one of the causes of slowing global disarmament: member states are not bound to any specific timeline, hence continuing to stretch the process of disarmament.

The third and final pillar of the NPT deals with the peaceful use of nuclear energy and heavily involves the IAEA as a body promoting the safe use of nuclear energy globally. It may also support disarmament processes, specifically regarding the transport and handling of nuclear waste. The IAEA may also examine the atomic energy infrastructure of states that signed the treaty, hence providing a form of supervision to ensure the following of the NPT.

Current problems with the NPT

Perhaps most importantly, there is no agency directly responsible for the enforcement of the NPT. While the UNODA works to support measures instituted in reaction to the NPT and the IAEA also contributes towards nuclear oversight, there is no recognized body with sufficient authority to thoroughly investigate nuclear stockpiles and disarmament efforts. The NPT Review Conference, taking place every five years, only offers limited insight into the development of disarmament actions and heavily depends on the willingness of individual member states to share information.

As mentioned above, the NPT does not provide any timeline towards global nuclear disarmament. Disarmament has been stalling in the past years, especially by the USA and Russia, which hold the by far largest nuclear stockpiles. This may be partly attributed to the continued pursuit of the deterrence strategy as well as a lack of international pressure to continue disarmament measures. As illustrated in Figure 1, initial efforts from 1990 to 2010 resulted in rapid decreases of total nuclear stockpiles, however have since flattened out considerably.

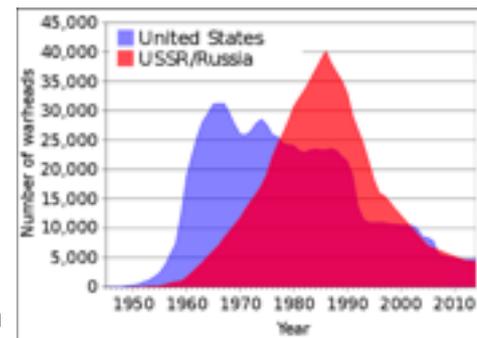


Figure 1: nuclear stockpiles of the USA/Russia

Furthermore, four member states are non-signatories of the NPT and believed to possess nuclear weapons. Their nuclear actions are in no manner supervised by any international agency, with their refusal to sign the NPT also obstructing measures towards applying global pressure towards disarmament. Despite them only possessing a fraction of global nuclear warheads, a thorough disarmament process must include all states officially or unofficially possessing nuclear weapons.

Continued development of nuclear weapons

Nuclear weapons and their delivery platforms are continuing to be modernized. Furthermore, some states are believed to be in the process of developing nuclear weapons or increasing their stockpiles. While the P5 use nuclear weapons for deterrence purposes, other states may have plans to use nuclear weapons in offensive military operations.

Deterrence strategy

The deterrence strategy mainly rests upon the principle that severe military conflict will not erupt due to the threat that nuclear weapons pose. If a nuclear strike is ordered by one nation, retaliation by another nation would follow and global nuclear fallout is to be expected.

However, this deterrence strategy makes disarmament difficult. Justification for delayed disarmament often rests on the argument that disarmament can only work when all states do so simultaneously and that there is a lack of intergovernmental trust when signing disarmament agreements. If one state disarms and another one doesn't, the state that hasn't disarmed would theoretically be disadvantaged in a military conflict. Furthermore, states have used the deterrence strategy to justify modernization programs of their nuclear warheads and delivery platforms, investing large sums into upgrading their nuclear weapons – theoretically working against the principle of global disarmament.

Offensive strategy

Some states, such as India, Pakistan and the DPRK have openly stated that they possess nuclear weapons and have conducted nuclear tests. As they are not signatories to the NPT, it can be assumed that these states could use their nuclear weapons as part of an offensive strategy in military conflict. Despite the smaller number of nuclear weapons possessed by these states, due to the devastating power of each warhead, fallout and damage could still be massive.

Nations suspected to be developing nuclear weapons

Israel and Iran are both suspected to have been involved in nuclear programs capable of producing nuclear warheads. While Iran is signatory of the NPT and hence subjected to IAEA supervision, Israel is not. The current state of their nuclear programs remains ambiguous, and while Iran publicly denies its nuclear weapon programs, Israel neither confirms nor denies them. In 2015, Iran struck a deal with the P5 + Germany, committing to drastically reducing its nuclear program and limiting it so that it can be only used for peaceful purposes in return for having economic sanctions lifted. However, recent changes in U.S. leadership have caused uncertainty in the future of Iran deal.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

P5 (China, France, Russia, the UK and the USA)

The P5 nations are the only nuclear powers recognized by the NPT and hence the United Nations. They developed and tested nuclear weapons before 1968, which is when the NPT was signed. By signing and ratifying the NPT, they committed to a process of nuclear disarmament.

India, Israel and Pakistan

India, Israel and Pakistan are all non-signatories of the NPT and either confirmed to be or suspected to be in possession of nuclear weapons. India and Pakistan have confirmed their nuclear weapons programs publicly, whereas Israel has remained unclear in official communications.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)

After leaving the NPT in January 2003, the DPRK has actively pursued a nuclear weapons program. The DPRK has since conducted six nuclear tests and claims it has functioning nuclear weapons. It is the only nation to have withdrawn from the NPT, which was indirectly recognized by the NPT in September of 2005.

Iran

While Iran is a signatory of the NPT, it has been found to be in non-compliance with aspects of the NPT. The IAEA has “expressed concerns about possible military dimensions to the nuclear program”, according to the UNODA, leading to sanctions and international debate on Iran’s compliance with the NPT.

South Sudan

South Sudan is the fifth and final nation that hasn’t signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty. It is a non-nuclear weapon state founded in July 2011 and was expected to join the treaty at the NPT Review Conference in 2015, which it didn’t do.

UNODA

The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) works to promote nuclear non-proliferation. It provides support and supervision of disarmament initiatives, hence being a party that is already and will continue to be involved in global disarmament efforts.

IAEA

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) works to enable, enhance and support the peaceful use of atomic energy, primarily overseeing pillar three of the NPT. It may

also work as a supervisory body of any nuclear infrastructure and is already working in multiple countries on combating the environmental remediation caused by the former nuclear tests.

ICAN

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) is an organization that works with more than 400 organization and 100 countries to support the NPT. It has received the Nobel Peace Prize for its efforts in raising awareness on the consequences of nuclear weapons use; however, no Nuclear-Weapon-Possessor States or NATO members have formally endorsed the ICAN or its pledges.

Conference on Disarmament (CD)

The Conference on Disarmament (CD) is a forum that played an essential role in the conventions on biological and chemical weapons and has since focused on nuclear disarmament. It wrote the first draft of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and continues to promote discussion on other treaties.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
August 6-9, 1945	The first nuclear weapons are dropped in Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the USA.
August 29, 1949	The Soviet Union tests its first nuclear weapons.
July 29, 1957	The IAEA is established through an independent international treaty.
October 16, 1964	China conducts its first nuclear tests, making it the 5 th nation to possess combat-ready nuclear weapons.
February 14, 1967	The Treaty of Tlatelolco is signed, making Latin America the first nuclear-weapon-free zone.
July 1, 1968	The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is signed by more than 40 states, including the Soviet Union,
March 5, 1970	The NPT enters into force with 46 signatories.
May 18, 1974	India conducts its first nuclear tests.
July 10, 1991	South Africa becomes the first nation to fully disarm its nuclear arsenal and joins the NPT.
September 24, 1996	All P5 nations sign the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, banning all nuclear tests. Some nations, including India, do not sign.
January 10, 2003	The DPRK declares its withdrawal from the NPT, which is not yet officially recognized. It begins its nuclear program.
January 1, 2010	Kazakhstan hosts a global initiative to combat nuclear terrorism.
May 22, 2015	The 2015 NPT Review Conference fails to produce a substantive statement of agreement.
July 14, 2015	The Joint Comprehensive Action Plan, aiming to curb Iran's ability to produce nuclear weapons, is presented.
July 7, 2017	The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, the first treaty to provide a timeline for eliminating all nuclear weapons, is signed by more than 50 nations, passing the UN GA. No P5 member signs the treaty.
September 3, 2017	The DPRK conducts its sixth nuclear test, which it claims to be the test of a thermonuclear weapon.
October 29, 2017	Donald Trump, President of the USA, announces he plans to increase and modernize the nuclear arsenal of the USA.

Relevant UN Treaties and Events

Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

The NPT is one of the most significant treaties in global nuclear disarmament, as described in the background information section. It ensures that all member states are committed towards preventing the spread of nuclear weapons and working towards an end-goal of global nuclear disarmament.

NPT Review Conference 2015

The NPT undergoes a review every five years, with the conferences aiming to produce a unanimous statement of continued commitment towards the NPT. Signatories analyze their progress towards reaching the provisions set in the NPT and may declare more specific goals towards nuclear disarmament. The last review conference, which took place in 2015, failed to reach “agreement on the substantive part of the draft Final Document” (*UN*).

Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

Adopted in July of 2017, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons prohibits any use or development of nuclear weapons and aims to ban nuclear weapons globally. It also includes a comprehensive plan for nuclear disarmament of nuclear-weapon states, however does not include any compliance measures apart from IAEA supervision. As of November 2017, 53 states have signed the treaty. However, all P5 states and NATO members did not vote on the resolution, with the exception of the Netherlands, which was the only state to vote against the resolution.

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, signed on the 10th of September 1996, prohibits the testing of any nuclear weapons. While 183 states have signed the treaty, only 166 have ratified it. It will enter into force as soon as China, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, the

DPRK, Pakistan and the United States have ratified the treaty, however, India, the DPRK, and Pakistan have not even yet signed the treaty.

New START Treaty

The New START Treaty is the latest in a series of treaties between the USA and Russia working towards nuclear disarmament, which was signed in April 2010 and will expire in 2021 (can be extended until 2026). It reduces strategic missile launchers of both countries by half, however doesn't regard inactive nuclear warheads that have been stockpiled.

Relevant UN Resolutions

- Security assurances against the use of nuclear weapons to non-nuclear-weapon States that are Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, 11 April 1995 (**S/RES/984**)
- Maintenance of international peace and security: Nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament, 24 September 2009 (**S/RES/1887**)
- Maintenance of international peace and security, 23 September 2016 (**S/RES/2310**)
- Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments, 13 December 2016 (**A/RES/71/54**)
- Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, 20 October 2015 (**A/RES/70/25**)

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

There have been a multitude of attempts towards working towards nuclear weapon disarmament on a global scale. Most importantly, these have continuously built upon one another. However, past attempt at working towards nuclear disarmament have often failed to gain support of officially nuclear weapon states as well as other states suspected to be in possession of nuclear weapons.

While the most recognizable attempt to work towards nuclear weapon disarmament on a global scale is the NPT, there are also many other treaties supporting nuclear disarmament in just as important ways. The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty was an effort, signed by the far majority of UN member states, to hinder the testing of new nuclear weapons. However, due to a lack of support from key nuclear possessors, this treaty never went into effect.

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which finally passed the GA in July of this year after multiple attempts at passing similar resolutions, also lays the framework for important next steps in the process of global nuclear weapon disarmament. Similarly to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, the treaty also failed to be signed or ratified by states possessing nuclear weapons.

Hence, previous attempts at solving the issue have mainly only succeeded to a limited state due to the lack of involvement of all states possessing nuclear weapons.

Possible Solutions

Transparency of non-P5 states with nuclear weapons

While the United Nations recognizes the P5 as nuclear weapon states and their commitment to disarm according to the NPT, it has not officially disarmament plans for Nuclear-Weapon-Possessor States. Furthermore, due to lack of clear communication by member states, it is not confirmed which states are in possession of nuclear warheads. Hence, this would be a two-step approach: first, determining which states are likely/suspected to possess nuclear weapons and then, second, determining whether these states indeed possess nuclear weapons (for example Israel and the DPRK). Encouraging nations to increase their nuclear transparency would be a significant step towards nuclear disarmament – member states could officially publish the specifics of their nuclear stockpiles, as some states already do, enabling all member states to view disarmament progress. However, this measure can only be effective if it regards all states in possession of nuclear weapons and not only the P5.

Developing a system to monitor nuclear disarmament

Currently, the IAEA provides most supervision on nuclear activities. However, due to its main purpose being the advocating of the peaceful use of nuclear energy, it is limited in its capacity to directly monitor nuclear weapons activities. There are two main approaches that could be pursued – either establishing a separate agency, reporting to the UN, that solely monitors nuclear stockpiles and disarmament, or focusing the IAEA more on monitoring and expanding its global programs to track nuclear stockpiles. Both of these approaches would hope to increase transparency on nuclear disarmament and allow for NPT Review Conferences as well as UN debate to have accurate data and set specific disarmament goals.

Establishing a compliance system

While the establishment of a monitoring system is an essential step in increasing the impact that international bodies can have on disarmament processes, a substantive compliance system would be the next step in ensuring commitment to disarmament. This could take var-

ious different forms – it could give existing agencies such as the IAEA or the UNODA more power in recommending or imposing consequences for breaking disarmament regulations, or it could instead focus on international agreements to increase political and economic pressure against countries not following disarmament treaties. This compliance system would also include measures to ensure that P5 nations are indeed disarming, following a timeline towards complete disarmament.

Creating a realistic timeframe towards disarmament

One of the key flaws of the NPT is the lack of a timeframe or commitment towards short term disarmament. Establishing a specific plan to disarm nuclear weapons would allow for exact determinations of global progress as well as more accurate feedback from supervisory agencies such as the IAEA or UNODA. This timeframe could either be based on an annual percentage reduction of nuclear warheads (e.g. a 20% annual reduction until the stockpile is below 500) or instead set specific quantities of nuclear warhead stockpiles that shouldn't be exceeded at a given point in time (i.e. a limit of 4,000 nuclear warheads in 2020). Goals need to be exact and realistic.

Ensuring support of existing treaties

There are a variety of treaties that not all member states have signed. These include the NPT, the CTBT and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. While it may be most effective to include measures to simply sign the NPT and CTBT, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons may need some amending. Resolutions could include clauses building upon the Treaty on the Prohibition of Weapons in order to make it more appealing to a greater amount of member states, as only 53 states signed it as of November 2017.

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Forum: General Assembly 1st Committee

Issue: The question of the disputed territories between Sudan and South Sudan

Student Officer: Lucas Veyres

Position: Chair

Introduction

The border dispute between Sudan and South Sudan epitomises the intricate nature of territorial conflicts where economic and political stakes are high. Colonial manoeuvres in Sudan along with ethnic and religious divides have continuously shaped the stability of the area and has led to conflict, ultimately resulting in the independence of South Sudan. Yet, the independence of South Sudan has not halted the ongoing tensions between the North and the South, on the contrary it has fueled a contentious border dispute.

A plethora of factors have led to the dire situation that persists between Sudan and South Sudan in regard to borders. Oil reserves are concentrated in the area, exacerbating the political tension that persists between the neighbouring countries. Sudan's predominance in the oil export market prior to the secession of South Sudan, being China's fifth largest oil supplier, goes to show that the abundance of natural resources constitutes an incentive for conflict, rather than an economic blessing contributing to the development of both nations. Furthermore, Sudanese and South-Sudanese local economies heavily depend on grazing, an agricultural practice that follows traditional and ancestral customs that go beyond the political borders established by the Anglo-Egyptian Condominium in 1956 and the 27th of September 2011 border agreement. A mixture of economic reasons that originate from the important hydrocarbon resources in the area and successive quarrelsome border demarcations have subsequently led to this border conflict.



Figure 1: Map of Border Disputes Small Arms Survey

Armed clashes, human rights abuses and severe deprivation are endemic to the dispute, calling for the urgent need for a peaceful resolution. Sudan and South Sudan's landlocked nature compels its many neighbouring states to solve the issue through mediation and negotiations. Furthermore, the hegemonic role of the United States in international affairs also resonates in this dispute given its historical backing of South Sudan, providing it international scrutiny. Thus, the matter has been a recurrent topic in the United Nations Security Council and international legal instances have dealt on the latter in the past. Given the failure of past attempts to pacify and solve the situation, it is imperative for an inclusive and overarching solution to be found, striking the right balance between the satisfaction of economic interests, a long-term peaceful and democratic rule in the disputed areas and an impetus for development and eradication of poverty.

Definition of Key Terms

Safe Demilitarized Border Zone (SDBZ)

The Safe Demilitarized Border Zone (SDBZ) refers to the buffer zone that extends to 10 miles from each side of the 27 September Agreements border where Sudan and South Sudan cannot harbour any armed forces or allow the presence of allied rebel factions. The implementation and respect of the SDBZ is overseen by the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mission (JBVMM).

Government of Sudan (GoS) and Republic of Sudan (RoS)

The GoS is the government of the Republic of Sudan, also known as North Sudan, since South Sudan's independence. The GoS is widely recognised as an authoritarian state as a consequence of its role in the Darfur crisis and the events linked to civil war that led to the South's independence.

Government of the Republic of South Sudan (GRSS) and Republic of South Sudan (RoSS)

The Government of the Republic of South Sudan is the elected representative body for South Sudan. The GRSS Since independence in 2011, South Sudan has been plagued with conflict, civil war and border disputes, and has topped the Fragile State Index.

Background Information

The origins of the current border dispute

Anglo-Egyptian Condominium: 1899 to 1956

Since 1899, Sudan was ruled by an Anglo-Egyptian Condominium, meaning a territory where several nations agree to exercise their rights jointly, although Egypt had much less influence in the administrative decision-making of Sudan. Over the 57 years of colonial rule, the British approach to Sudan was based on a 'divide to conquer' policy, whereby the Northern predominantly Muslim region was developed economically and made into the power centre of the country through the development of its institutions. The southern region on the contrary, was kept along tribal lines and the ethnic divide was deepened within the area, so as to diminish its influence in decision-making and create opposition to the north. Upon Sudan's independence in 1956, a civil war erupted from 1955 to 1972, as a result of the power cleavage that persisted between both nations and a North-South demarcation was drawn.

This demarcation is currently considered as the basis for all border disputes, given that it was supposedly drawn up with minimal interference of the currently involved parties, being Sudan and South Sudan, and is widely accepted as practical common ground. Yet the cumbersome and putative nature of this border resides in the fact that at the time geographical knowledge lacked, thus the demarcation is imprecise. Furthermore, as it will be discussed later on, upon the discovery of oil in 1978, Khartoum changed the demarcation in order to include oil-rich areas in the northern part. Overall, the historical baggage that carries this demarcation, along with its lack of preciseness and the economically and politically motivated subsequent alterations it suffered, make the 1956 demarcation a contentious yet essential cornerstone for agreements.

From civil war to independence: Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and the Addis Ababa accords

The Second Sudanese civil war lasted from 1983 to 2005 and opposed the majorly Muslim north and the Christian and animist south, with ethnic groups also playing a strong role in the North-South divide. The CPA put an end to the conflict between the Sudan's People Liberation Movement (SPLM), a political party of South Sudan having as an armed branch the Sudan's People Liberation Army (SPLA), and the GoS by agreeing to the organisation of a referendum in 2011 whereby the vote would decide whether South Sudan becomes independent. The Agreement included the Machakos protocol and the Power Sharing Protocol that explicated the interim gov-

ernance of the southern and northern regions. The border demarcation used in the CPA is the 1956 border, although the agreement also establishes the Technical Border Committee (TBC), a supposedly impartial organ, that is mandated to address the issues in regard to the 1956 border.

Upon Sudan's independence, as a result of the 98% approval of the referendum, several agreements were mediated in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, so as to resolve the ongoing issues that the CPA has failed to resolve or even sparked. This concluded in the September 27th Addis Ababa Agreements that provide a framework for the future resolution of border disputes between the GoS and the GoSS, whereby the guideline of the 1956 border is kept with the council and alterations of the TBC. Another crucial element to the Addis Ababa agreements is the intent to establish a Safe Border Demilitarized Zone (SBDZ) which would in turn demilitarize the claimed areas and lead to pacific negotiations.

Ongoing territorial disputes

The current status-quo associated with the border dispute between the RoS and the RoSS can largely be attributed to the diverging opinions the latter have in terms of the right to lay a claim on a specific territory. In the period of 2010 to 2012, the GoSS considered six territories as disputed areas: Kafia Kingi, the 14 Mile Area, Jebel Megeinis, Kaka town, Renk county and Abyei. The GoS counter argues that this should not be in order, given that these territories are not disputed but in reality, claimed. Particular attention should be drawn to the Abyei area.

Abyei Area

Abyei alongside three other disputed areas are zones that were offered a specific referendum, meaning that they chose if the area remained within Sudan or was part of South Sudan. This measure was an integral point in the CPA, called the Protocol for the Resolution of the Conflict of the Abyei Area. However, a fundamental disagreement originated in the definition of Abyei residents. Members of the Ngok Dinka ethnicity were automatically allowed to take part in the vote, considering they were Abyei's main inhabitants, however other ethnic groups such as the Missiriya were prevented from participating, on the basis that this pastoralist group lived only 6 months in the province. The implications of not allowing the Missiriya, Arab nomads, to take part in the vote are that the outcome of the referendum would favour South Sudan. This has created an indefinite standstill with the interim Abyei Special Administrative Area, implemented



Figure 1: Map of Abyei
Source: *The Economist*

under the stipulations of the CPA, rules the area since 2008. The United Nations has established an interim security force that is mandated to secure civilians and demilitarize Abyei, called the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNIFSA).

The Abyei matter is also interesting, considering the fact it is the only instance where International Arbitration was used to settle a territorial dispute. As a matter of fact, in 2008, prior to South Sudan's independence, the GoS and the SPLM referred the dispute to the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in The Hague. The outcome of the arbitration was that the size of the Abyei area should be reduced and that most of the oil fields, including Heglig, should be awarded to the RoS. This outcome can be seen as a victory for both concerned parties – at the time- given the fact that reducing the size of the area would have favoured the South Sudanese cause in the referendum whilst the North benefits from the oil fields it has been attributed.

Importance of oil and other economic factors in the border spat

Natural resources are considered by experts on the topic as one of the main factors for continued conflict over borders between the RoS and the RoSS. South Sudan obtains 98% of its revenue from oil exports, whilst oil transit fees account for 36% of Sudan's budget. A forced symbiotic economic relationship between the two nations has exhumed from the abundance of oil. The Abyei area and Heglig oil fields, both disputed by the two concerned parties are crucial zones for oil production and exportations. Border disputes and armed conflict in these areas has simultaneously stemmed from these riches and been exacerbated by the latter. The 2012 oil transit fee spat exemplifies this. In 2012, in reaction to allegations that the RoSS was harbouring Sudanese rebels, the RoS increased the oil transit fee to \$38 per barrel in comparison with worldwide amounts that range from \$0.63 to \$0.69 per barrel. In response to that, the RoSS halted oil production in January 2012. Recent projects to construct a pipeline avoiding the RoS by the RoSS, whereby the oil related infrastructure would pass by Kenya, go to show that the border dispute has profound impacts on the South Sudanese economy.

Another instrumental element in the intricate relation that unites oil resources and the ongoing border conflict is the considerable foreign investment made by nations in the petroleum industry in both nations. Prior to South Sudan's independence, in 2009, Sudan shipped 67% of its oil products to China, due to investments and agreements made between Sudanese authorities and China's national oil company China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC). The significant investment in oil in both Sudan and South Sudan intensifies the various claims made by each party and generate international scrutiny on the matter.

Grazing and movement of pastoralist groups along the North and South border also appears to be a pivotal factor in the border dispute. Following, South Sudan's secession from

the North, the latter established an unofficial trade and movement blockade. This constitutes an escalating element in the border dispute as ancestral practices have relied on movement along the border to reach fertile lands, that are now disputed by both parties.

Discovery of oil in Sudan: 1978

Oil exploration in Sudan dates back to 1959 when the Italian company Agip conducted an unsuccessful exploration operation. In 1978, the American company Chevron discovers oil in Sudanese territory, with more than 75% of the latter being in the southern province. Upon this setback, given the rising dissent and armed rebellion from southern Sudanese towards the Khartoum government, Sudanese authorities redrew borders so as to include the oil abundant regions within the northern province. The central Khartoum government thus decided to create the Unity State, thereby excluding the southern region from the profitable oil resources. In addition, the contentious Heglig area was originally known as Panthou in Dinka, a predominant ethnic group of the south, and was renamed to Heglig in Arab.



Figure : Map of oil resources in disputed areas
Source : Africa Confidential

Division and distribution of oil related resources before the referendum and following independence

The Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) brokered in 2005 between the RoS and the SPLM entailed an equal distribution of oil revenue between the aforementioned parties. Nevertheless, upon the establishment of the RoSS following the independence referendum in 2011, the latter viewed the shared income agreement as unfair, given the unequal territorial distribution of oil resources. This has fuelled the RoSS to expand its territorial claims along the border and question the previously established border demarcation. The Addis Ababa Agreement of 2012 settled the post-independence oil dispute, whereby the two parties set fixed transit fee rates. However, as previously mentioned the accord has not been respected by the two parties and has led to a hindrance in the development of the oil industry, resulting to a total halt in oil production by South Sudan. In spite of that, shared oil resources have also allowed an appeasement of the situation in the past. In March 2013, the RoS and RoSS agreed to cease hostilities to bolster oil production.

Heglig Crisis

The Heglig crisis refers to the armed clashes that occurred between Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the South Sudanese forces in March and April of 2012. Heglig is an oil-rich town (the oil production accounts for 115,000 barrels a day) of the Abyei region which was not included in the national referendum of 2011, due to the fact that both parties disagreed whom should vote in the area, considering the various ethnic groups of nomadic nature that are known to frequent the area. As a matter of fact, the CAP planned for a separate referendum to be held, however this never happened. Consequently, the area of Abyei, and Heglig, is a disputed area by both parties.

Until the 26th of March 2012, Heglig was controlled by the GoS and it provided Khartoum with 50% of its oil production. However, this changed when the SPLM/A launched an armed offensive and captured the area, thus controlling the important oil resources. Although the SPLM/A's control over Heglig was brief - 10 days – the SAF only managed to fully recapture the area the 22nd of April 2012 after an intensive bombing campaign. These clashes were the deadliest border confrontation since the independence, resulting in close to 1200 deaths with 60 civilian deaths,

Grazing

South Sudan's independence has disrupted the century long transhumant and pastoral activities of nomadic tribes that lived around the Sudanese and South Sudanese border. As previously mentioned following South Sudan's independence, the GoS imposed trade and movement restrictions along the border. This obstructed the annual movement of herders and pastoralist groups from the South and the North that usually move to one area according to the season (dry and wet season). An instance where border demarcation has had ramifications on grazing, which led to armed clashes, could be in October of 2007 when fighters belonging to the Messiria ethnic group rebelled against the terms of the CPA which they deemed hindered their access to grazing lands. This is a significant issue for both parties, seeing as it generates instability and discontent, often voiced through arms, among these groups. Furthermore, the importance of agriculture and the livestock sectors is sizeable for Sudan, whose revenue depends heavily on the latter (30%).

The Safe Demilitarized Border Zone (SDBZ)

The implementation of a SDBZ was stipulated under the September 27th Addis Ababa agreements in 2012, whereby a 20 kilometres wide – 10 kilometres on each side of the border- zone would act as a demilitarized buffer zone. This was in agreed to, so as to de-escalate the numerous border clashes between governmental forces as well as with rebel factions, that each party accuse the other to harbour. The Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism was tasked with the duty to verify the implementation of the SDBZ. The initiative although 5 years old has not encountered success, seeing as the fluctuations in the intensity of the dispute have continuously maintained the border zones militarized. Furthermore, the measure fares badly with local populations that inhabit the bordering areas, that perpetually fear an eventual attack. The lack of political will the GoS and the GoSS have signified in the implementation of the SDBZ and in finding an agreement regarding the monitoring mechanism, has exasperated the international community, with the Security Council threatening to withdraw its support to Sudan-South Sudan border monitoring force.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

Ethiopia

Ethiopia's role as a peace-maker in the territorial disputes opposing the RoS and the RoSS, reflects the country's desire to impose itself as a regional leader. It has undeniably been the most active external actor in the issue, given its persistent calls for mediation and hosting the various rounds of negotiations. As a matter of fact, the September 27th Agreements in 2012 are largely due to Ethiopia's mediating role in the conflict. Furthermore, Ethiopia's significant troop commitment in the issue also suggests its strong desire to pacify the situation: it is the lead contributor of the UNISFA, with 3800 troops and takes a lead role within organisations

USA

The USA is historically involved in Sudan and has continuously attempted to make it a priority of its foreign policy agenda. From the onset of the civil wars that plagued Sudan for a large part of its existence as a unified state, the US has come to the defence of the interests of the southern region and lashed out at Sudan's role in the Darfur crisis. President Bush signed numerous laws imposing sanctions on the Sudanese regime as well as laws encouraging divestment. On top of that, Sudan has been the third largest recipient of US aid in the 2005 to 2010 period. Nevertheless, in recent times the US has called for a re-examination of aid policies towards Sudan and South Sudan (the latter having received \$2.7 billion in aid) so as to pressure the GoSS to pacify the border dispute and resolve its internal issues.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
January 1 st , 1956	Sudan gains independence from the Anglo-Egyptian Condominium.
	Chevron discovers oil in Unity State, Sudan
1979	Machakos Protocol is signed, defining the border between Sudan and South Sudan, in line with the 1956 demarcation. The Three States (Abyei, Nuba Mountains and Unity) are included in South Sudan, which Sudan opposes.
July 20 th , 2002	
July 7 th , 2008	The Abyei region dispute is referred to the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague
July 22 nd , 2009	The PCA awards oil fields to RoS and reduces the size of Abyei
May 22 nd , 2011	Sudanese Armed Forces take control of the Abyei Area
June 27 th , 2011	United Nations Interim Force for Abyei (UNIFSA) is approved by the Security Council
January 29 th , 2012	South Sudan shuts down oil production following oil transit fee dispute with Sudan
March 26 th , 2012	Heglig crisis is initiated when South Sudanese forces briefly capture the Heglig oil fields and takes control of Heglig.
April 22 nd , 2012	Sudan regains full control of the Abyei Area after bombing campaign resulting in 60 deaths.
	4,000 people flee Sudan for South Sudan over the instability created by the armed clashes between the SPLM-North (South Sudan affiliated rebel group) and the SAF in the Blue Nile State.

Relevant UN Treaties and Events

The UN has over the course of the border dispute maintained its presence through the UNMISS and the UNISFA. It has also supported and passed numerous resolutions on the issue as shown:

- The Agreement on Border Issues (including demarcation), 27 September 2012: this provides the current framework for the resolution of territorial disputes.
- The Agreement Concerning Oil and related Economic Matters, 27 September 2012
- Security Council Resolution that establishes the mandate of UNIFSA (1990, **27/06/11**)

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

The Sudanese and South Sudanese border dispute is dealt with by numerous regional and international actors that have helped facilitate the negotiation process and ease the finding of a solution to the problem. Among the past solutions implemented with the intent to solve the matter is the creation of independent committees, containing Sudanese, South Sudanese and independent actors, to provide expert advice on the borders and their eventu-

al redrawing. It should be noted that this technocratic approach has previously been decried for the lack of awareness of the conflicting dynamics in the area, the myriad of religious and ethnic groups that back various causes and authorities and the limited development, given the frequency of conflict and the scarcity of financial resources. Furthermore, the most prominent solution that is the establishment of the SBDZ seems to be complicated to achieve given that it was first suggested in 2012 and has yet to be fully implemented. The underlying issue with this attempted solution is the considerable unpopularity of the measure amongst local populations that feel vulnerable to attacks and are often ethnically affiliated with the belligerents in the area.

Fundamentally, the principal cause to the seemingly indefinite border spat is the failure to tackle the main element of the problem: determining the validity of the claims. The past agreements and treaties, such as the CPA or the Addis Ababa agreements, all exemplify this debacle, considering that they have repeatedly referred the actual problem, *inter alia* the administration of the disputed territories such as Abyei, to another structure that eventually becomes ridden with allegations of bias or inefficiency.

Possible Solutions

Given the complex nature of the border dispute, in a context of recent independence and prior to that, civil war for nearly four decades, an adequate solution to the territorial disputes between Sudan and South Sudan has to be multi-faceted and include political and economic incentives. The current inertia that surrounds the issue is in part due to the lack of the latter and this has to be addressed. As such, following the footsteps of the PCA ruling that reduced the size of Abyei and attributed most oil fields to the RoS, an ideal solution would be a compromise, bridging the gap between the needs and wants of the two parties. For instance, it is safe to assume that the RoS has a keen interest in controlling more oil fields whereas the RoSS seeks to assert its power as a new nation and expand its territory.

According to the United Nations Environment Programme, 40% of conflicts are due to natural resources. A fair and equitable exploitation of the abundant natural resources in the bordering areas between Sudan and South Sudan could help prevent and appease the conflictual situation. Joint-exploitation projects could be a stepping-stone to resolve the border conflict. Tackling the economic aspect of the issue prior to the political side is often considerably beneficial given that states realize the advantage of having close economic relations with neighbours, therefore fostering political dialogue.

Another approach to solving the issue, could be a resolution through the consultation of a legally binding court such as the International Court of Justice. This is a contentious solution given that no side wishes to lose complete access to natural resources in the area. However, one way to entice the opposing parties to support this option could be in outlining the transparency of the process, contrarily to the various ones that have shaped the border dispute.

Delegates should also consider solutions that are inherent to the committee's duties, such as disarmament. The abundance of weapons controlled by non-state actors in the Sudanese and South-Sudanese border area is a catalyst for conflict and is so widespread that Sudan is often called Africa's "gun dump". The UNMISS has repeatedly conducted weapons destructions in Protection of Civilian (PoC) sites. These destructions correlate with the widespread effort of tracking weaponry in the conflict. An efficient way to appease tensions and ease the turmoil could be to reduce the number of weapons in circulation. The UNMISS has proceeded in destroying the weapons handed in by civilians, perhaps a more fruitful manner to carry this out would be to provide incentives for weapons collection. It could be interesting to look into how arms collection programs were carried in other conflict zones such as in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Furthermore, another issue regarding arms, is the increasingly and badly dealt arms surplus that Sudanese and South-Sudanese security forces experience. Indeed, many weapons collected by Sudanese and South Sudanese forces previously belonging to rebel forces are undocumented and although obsolete are stockpiled, this increases the chances of looting and deepens the extent to which firearms are rampant in the countries. What's more during previous nationally organized disarmament campaigns, arms were illicitly sold by soldiers of both sides, implying that the aforementioned arms collection has to be supervised and perhaps organized by the UNMISS.

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Forum: General Assembly 1st Committee

Issue: Strengthening disarmament education as an instrument to achieve sustainable peace

Student Officer: Seif Hikal

Position: Deputy Chair

Introduction

We live in a world that witnesses excessive conflict among nations and peoples. Hence why disarmament education is essential to this world, as disarmament is the key to global peace. Heated discussions and controversial debates have been held, and the question of strengthening disarmament education has deemed itself as one that must be addressed with much urgency. The United Nations Charter, signed following the end of the Second World War, mentions disarmament in articles 11 and 47.

In many countries, citizens and governments alike do not believe disarmament to be the solution, as they see that armament and proliferation are vital safety measures. Whether this ideology stems from the belief that a country must be armed with nuclear weapons, down to the belief that citizens should have the right to bear arms as a necessary safety measure. Disarmament education is vital to the process of attaining sustainable peace, establishing the link between both elements.

As per the Report of the UN Secretary General with regards to disarmament and non-proliferation education in 2002, the objective of disarmament education is “to impart knowledge and skills to individuals to empower them to make their contribution, as national and world citizens, to the achievement of concrete disarmament and non-proliferation measures and the ultimate goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control.”¹ It is vital to realize that different age groups and demographics require different types of disarmament education, the same materials cannot be provided for an elementary school student and a middle-aged man.

Definition of Key Terms

Disarmament education

Education that explores the importance of reducing and -one day- eliminating armaments, in order to reduce the frequency and severity of armed conflicts.² This form of education is essential to the issue at hand, and allows those affected by conflicts to receive the psychosocial and educational knowledge and training that they may need.

Sustainable peace

The idea of having a lasting peace that is acquired by having a society without conflict and violence. This idea of sustainable peace stems from the notion that to achieve a lasting

¹ “United Nations Study on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education.” *A/57/124 - E*, 30 Aug. 2002, undocs.org/A/57/124.

² Peacematters.” *Peacematters*, www.ppu.org.uk/peacematters/2004/pm2004_13.html.

state of peace, it is necessary to involve sustainable development, the protection of human rights, among other causes.

Sustainable Development Goals

These goals are “a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity.” There are seventeen Sustainable Development Goals all of which cover different areas that need work in the social sector.

Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR)

“The objective of the DDR process is to contribute to security and stability in post-conflict environments so that recovery and development can begin. The DDR of ex-combatants is a complex process, with political, military, security, humanitarian and socio-economic dimensions. It aims to deal with the post-conflict security problem that arises when ex-combatants are left without livelihoods or support networks, other than their former comrades, during the vital transition period from conflict to peace and development.”³

Nuclear Proliferation

Refers to the spread of nuclear weapons to nations that are not recognized by the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as Nuclear Weapon States.

Weapons of Mass Destruction

Refers to “a nuclear, biological, or chemical weapon able to cause widespread devastation and loss of life.”⁴ Weapons of Mass Destruction are at the heart of the issue at hand as the issue strives to prevent their acquisition by terrorist groups.

Background Information

The twentieth century has seen a lot of change. Change in all fields, from the transformation of science and technology, to the improvement of living standards around the world, a lot has changed in a century. Furthermore, great progress has taken place in the development of weapons of mass destruction that are biological, chemical and even nuclear.⁵ Throughout the course of the first and second World Wars, parties in conflict became increasingly reliant on weapons across the board. Everything from small arms and light weapons such as rifles and machine guns, to chemical weapons such as poison gas all spread during conflicts in the twentieth century.⁶ Although such a great deal of progress has occurred in the field of re-

³ *What Is DDR?*, www.unddr.org/what-is-ddr/introduction_1.aspx.

⁴ “Weapon of Mass Destruction | Definition of Weapon of Mass Destruction in English by Oxford Dictionaries.” *Oxford Dictionaries | English*, Oxford Dictionaries, en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/weapon_of_mass_destruction.

⁵ United Nations Study on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education.” *A/57/124 - E*, 30 Aug. 2002, undocs.org/A/57/124.

⁶ “Weapons of World War I.” *HistoryNet*, 13 Apr. 2016, www.historynet.com/weapons-of-world-war-i.htm.

searching and developing armaments, not nearly as much progress has occurred in the field of educating the population about the importance of disarmament as a means to achieve sustainable peace.

Challenges to international security and disarmament

Some challenges to international security and disarmament that have arisen in recent years have revolved around the substantial threat of terrorism to international security. Terror attacks have become more widespread and have threatened stability in some regions of the world. Terrorist groups have attempted to access Weapons of Mass Destruction in the past, such as when, in the beginning of 1994, Osama Bin Laden attempted to purchase uranium for the militant terrorist organization al-Qaeda. A report by a former senior CIA official revealed that the al-Qaeda leadership are determined and willing to wait for years and years in order to obtain the weapons that would allow the terrorist group to inflict widespread casualties. This desire to acquire weapons of mass destruction places al-Qaeda at the center of the issue at hand.⁷ Such persistence by non-state actors to acquire WMDs serves as a serious challenge to international security and disarmament. Furthermore, organized crime, poverty, human rights abuses and environmental concerns should be considered as threats to international security that hinder sustainable peace from being achieved.⁸

Global threat of small arms and light weapons

Small arms and light weapons serve as a global threat. Global proliferation of more mobile and portable weapons has led to a higher frequency and intensity of armed conflict. This proliferation has also further complicated the peacemaking process. Small arms and light weapons are available both legally and illegally depending on local laws and regulations and are easily operated by those without prior experience controlling weaponry. Even children are able to easily operate such weaponry in certain areas of the world. “Since 1990, these conflicts have resulted in the deaths of more than 4 million people and have produced 20 million refugees and 24 million displaced persons.”⁹

The underutilization of disarmament education as a tool for promoting peace

⁷ “Al Qaeda Weapons of Mass Destruction Threat: Hype or Reality? | Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs.” *Harvard Kennedy School Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs*, www.belfercenter.org/publication/al-qaeda-weapons-mass-destruction-threat-hype-or-reality.

⁸ “United Nations Study on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education.” *A/57/124 - E*, 30 Aug. 2002,

⁹ “Arms Control Today.” *Small Arms and Light Weapons: Controlling the Real Instruments of War*, 1 Aug. 1998, www.armscontrol.org/print/391.

Although disarmament education has seen increased application over the past several decades, disarmament education and training are not used to their maximum potential as means to promote peace. Disarmament education is vital to this multi-faceted process that must involve families, educational institutions, the community, and the government. The materials that are used in disarmament education must be revised and renewed in order to be suitable to this rapidly changing world. An example of this is the importance of using new pedagogical methods such as the internet. This increased emphasis on disarmament education as a tool for promoting peace would only further promote achieving sustainable peace by teaching future generations on the importance of a disarmament culture.¹⁰

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

Sierra Leone

Conflict in Sierra Leone began in 1991 when members of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) attacked towns in a district near the Liberian border. They claimed that their mission was to overthrow the one-party regime that ruled the country. As the conflict grew, the RUF recruited an additional 11,000 soldiers most of which were local youth, reaching a size of 14,000 soldiers in total. In 1997, the RUF cooperated with the SLA army and led a coup against President Kabbah. Following negotiations, the Lomé Peace Accord was signed in 1999 and signified the transformation of the RUF into a political party. However, in 2002, the RUF's leader, Foday Sankoh, was arrested. In 2002, the war was declared over.

After being devastated by 11 years of war, post-war reconstruction was a serious challenge for Sierra Leone. As a World Bank report reveals, “[a]t the end of the war, Sierra Leone was at the foot of the UNDP’s Human Development Index, with social services destroyed, large amounts of the population displaced and infrastructure shattered.”¹¹ In the immediate aftermath of the conflict, in the period focused on reconstructing the country’s education infrastructure, many parties (governmental and international agencies) were involved in the process. UNICEF staff interviewed in 2011 viewed education “as the route to a more prosperous future.”¹¹ With Sierra Leone’s first National Programme for Food Security, Job Creation and Good Governance, the third pillar, Human Development focused on education. CREPS, a program led by UNICEF and other international agencies “condensed six years of primary education into three years, and was aimed at targeting the generation of youth that

¹⁰ “United Nations Study on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education.” *A/57/124 - E*, 30 Aug. 2002, undocs.org/A/57/124.

¹¹ Novel, et al. “The Violence of Peace and the Role of Education: Insights from Sierra Leone.” *Sussex Research Online*.

¹¹ Novel, et al. “The Violence of Peace and the Role of Education: Insights from Sierra Leone.” *Sussex Research Online*.

had missed out on their education due to the conflict... [this programme] linked educational activities with psychosocial and trauma interventions.”¹¹ The program targeted demobilized youth and refugees that missed out on primary education. Due to the importance of education in sustainable peace, such programs are valuable for youth affected by the conflict and are valuable for children to be able to move on with their lives.

Colombia

With an over fifty-year history of violent conflict, Colombia’s children have suffered greatly with young boys and girls being required to leave their classrooms and joining the armed conflict from the age of thirteen. School buildings were utilized by guerillas and the Colombian army, serving as posts for combatants. Over the course of the conflict, “child displacement and poverty have reached epidemic levels.”¹² The Colombian model is valuable to the question of strengthening disarmament education as a means to achieve sustainable peace because Colombian demobilized combatants were offered with several benefits that included psychosocial, educational, and legal services as well as access to health care. Furthermore, support centers were set up across the country to ease the process of reintegrating these former combatants into society. Although there is still work to be done with the disarmament education programs in Colombia, this initiative is a step forward for this type of post-conflict education.

UNICEF

The United Nations Children’s Fund has supported youth in armed conflicts for decades. In 1989, UNICEF supported the Lebanese government along with 240 non-governmental organizations in their work to train 10,000 youth. Those thousands of youth that UNICEF trained organized educational activities that reached another 200,000 children. The purpose of the activities conducted was to “promote reconciliation, conflict resolution and reconstruction.”¹³ Furthermore, in 1996, millions of youth in Colombia organized themselves in order to end the violence and social injustice that was spread by the regime. The organized demonstration forced the government to make the objective of these youth a priority.

UNHCR

¹¹ Novel, et al. “The Violence of Peace and the Role of Education: Insights from Sierra Leone.” *Sussex Research Online*.

¹² Jadia Rubaii Co-Director, Institute for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention, and Associate Professor of Public Administration, Binghamton University, State University of New York. “Engaging Colombia’s Students May Be Key to Long-Term Peace.” *The Conversation*, 14 Dec. 2017, theconversation.com/engaging-colombias-students-may-be-key-to-long-term-peace-80722.

¹³ Roger, Isabelle. “Education for Children during Armed Conflicts and Post-Conflict Reconstruction.” Disarmament Forum, 2002.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has also worked with refugees in areas of conflict in support of disarming said groups, and educating them on disarmament and its importance. In Liberia, the UNHCR cooperated with Save the Children in providing psychosocial support to former child soldiers. These former soldiers were offered both vocational training and remedial courses in order to reintegrate them into society after their time with armed groups. Moreover, in Kenya and Guinea, the UNHCR has provided training to teachers as well as community leaders at schools in hopes of better responding to educational needs in these areas. The schools for refugee children that are supported by the UNHCR provide courses on the importance of peace as well as general life skills. Furthermore, the UNHCR trains teachers at these schools on the same subject areas.¹⁴ These contributions by the UNHCR support the strengthening of disarmament education among refugee communities.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
1968	The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was signed. This treaty was written with the goal of preventing the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology among other primary objectives.
1978	Tenth Special Session of the UN General Assembly, the first special session regarding disarmament is hosted
1980	The UNESCO World Congress on Disarmament Education takes place— provided recommendations on steps to promote research and education in the field of disarmament
1982	UN launched the World Disarmament Campaign in accordance with a decision taken by the UN General Assembly at the second special session for disarmament
1992	UN World Disarmament Campaign transformed into the UN Disarmament Information Programme
1999	UN introduced the International Year for the Culture of Peace
2000	UN International Year for the Culture of Peace extended to International Decade for the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World

¹⁴ Ibid.

Relevant UN Treaties and Events

General and complete disarmament, 12 January 2001 (**A/RES/55/33**): Discusses the importance of general and complete disarmament, urging nations to disarm themselves in accordance with international agreements on the matter.

- United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education, 30 August 2002 (**A/57/124**): Delves into the insights on disarmament and non-proliferation education based on observations made by a Group of Governmental Experts.
- The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, 12 December 2016 (**A/RES/71/48**): Discusses the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons in a more thorough manner.
- United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament, 15 December 2016 (**A/RES/71/80**): Recognizes the UN regional centres for peace and disarmament for their efforts during the past thirty years.

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

In 1978, the tenth special session of the United Nations General Assembly was devoted to the issue of disarmament education. The “first international forum to declare that disarmament education was urgent.”¹⁵ The special session was designed in order to urge UNESCO to “take steps to develop programmes of education for disarmament and peace studies at all levels.”¹⁶ The session resulted in an emphasis on teaching and research as two elements of education that are of great urgency and importance to the question of disarmament.¹⁷ Furthermore, the tenth special session set up the Disarmament Fellowship Programme, which works towards the development of expertise with disarmament issues in member states.¹⁸ In 1980, the UNESCO World Congress on Disarmament Education provided recommendations on steps to promote research and education in the field of disarmament—not much progress has taken place since then, however, many of the ideas presented during the congress continue to be relevant.

¹⁵ “United Nations Study on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education.” *A/57/124 - E*, 30 Aug. 2002, undocs.org/A/57/124.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁷ “Resolutions and Decisions Adopted by the General Assembly during Its Tenth Special Session.” *A/S-10/4 - E*, 30 June 1978, undocs.org/en/A/S-10/4.

¹⁸ “United Nations Study on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education.” *A/57/124 - E*, 30 Aug. 2002, undocs.org/A/57/124.

Several years following the tenth special session of the United Nations General Assembly, the UN launched the World Disarmament Campaign in 1982. This campaign was launched in accordance with a decision taken by the United Nations General Assembly at the second special session for disarmament which occurred in the same year. This session was designed to “inform, educate and to generate public understanding and support for the objectives of the United Nations in the field of arms limitation and disarmament.”¹⁹ Ten years later, in 1992, the campaign was transformed into the UN Disarmament Information Programme.

In 1999, the UN introduced the International Year for the Culture of Peace. The following year, this was extended to become the International Decade for the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World.²⁰

Possible Solutions

The question at hand is multi-faceted, requiring a more holistic approach in order to achieve sustainable peace by strengthening disarmament education. Disarmament education must involve the “family, schools, universities, the media, the community, NGOs, Governments, parliaments and international organizations.”²¹ By targeting a variety of groups, this education will be received by the different categories of society, making a greater impact. Women should be targeted in order to educate their families with regards to the importance of participating in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programs as well as other disarmament efforts. Media in conflict zones must be involved, and it must spread information regarding disarmament education. Furthermore, disarmament education materials must be revised and adapted in order to be suitable in this rapidly changing world. This education should differ based on the age group targeted. Teachers should receive enrichment materials for their lessons and students should learn through innovative activities that emphasize critical thinking and other skills that have been found beneficial to achieve the target of disarmament education. A different approach to disarmament education that is adaptable to our changing world would make a greater impact in the affected communities, ultimately being of aid in achieving sustainable peace by strengthening disarmament education.²²

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¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ “Arms Control Today.” *Small Arms and Light Weapons: Controlling the Real Instruments of War*, 1 Aug. 1998, www.armscontrol.org/print/391.

²¹ Ibid.

²² Ibid.

ternational Affairs, www.belfercenter.org/publication/al-qaeda-weapons-mass-destruction-threat-hype-or-reality.

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Appendix

- I. United Nations Study on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education: undocs.org/A/57/124