

UN AGENCIES CONNECTING WITH ACADEMICS AND THE CIVIL SOCIETY

PRESENTATION OF ACADEMIC PAPERS BY YOUNG SCHOLARS

PANEL 2: NUCLEAR SECURITY AND GLOBAL GOVERNANCE: GLOBAL ZERO: FICTION OR REALITY? ROOM E665- MULTI MEDIA ROOM

By Berth Nyarire Makilagi

JURY:

- Prof. Christer JÖNSSON, Academic Council on the UN System
- Vasileios SAVVIDIS, Representative CTBTO
- Prof. Markus KORNPORST, Chair of International Relations, Diplomatic Academy of Vienna
- Ing. Radim SRŠEŇ Ph.D, Jan Masaryk Centre of International Studies, Czech United Nations Association, University of Economics, Prague
- Simon TAUER, Academic Council on the UN System

PRESENTERS: Ing. PETER HOLAS AND MS. NORA LASAR

I. INTRODUCTION

The Chair of the Panel, Prof. Jönsson introduced the two panelists and welcomed the audience to the panel.

II. FIRST PRESENTATION

NUCLEAR SECURITY IN FAR SOUTH OF LATIN AMERICA (ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL) BY PRESENTATION BY PETER HOLAS

Mr. Holas started his presentation by explaining that both Argentina and Brazil own nuclear weapons. The two countries signed the Convention on Nuclear Safety in 1967 and Argentina ratified in 1994 and Brazil in 1997.

In the 1990s, both countries abandoned their nuclear weapons programme. The Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) was signed in 1995 and 1998 by Argentina and Brazil respectively.

In pointing out the interconnectedness of nuclear safety and security, he explained it with hard vs. soft model. In the hard model, nuclear is for destruction while the soft one holds that the source of nuclear accidents is unsafe nuclear material that can be passed and converted to nuclear weapons.

Mr. Holas further explained the evolution of nuclear proliferation in Argentina and Brazil. They started in the 1950s and 1956 respectively. The two countries both developed nuclear power for electricity, Argentina in 1976 and Brazil in 1974. By this time, the two countries had both experienced nuclear programmes and had abandoned them.

Both Argentina and Brazil have participated in soft nuclear security and signed the Convention on Nuclear Security by trying to make the industry softer. The objective of soft nuclear security is the world without dangerous nuclear material.

There seems to be neutrality in Latin American countries, and Brazil has good relations with Iran and U.S, thus it is potentially seen that it may act as a mediator. Argentina can use nuclear energy for peaceful means, thus a nuclear free zone in Latin American Countries.

The comments from the Jury were that there is still a research puzzle that needs to be tackled and there is need for more explanation on the regional politics in Latin America by involving the different theories in international relations.

III.TOUR OF THE CTBTO

Before the second presentation, the audience was given a tour by the CTBTO administration where the visit included the operation room and the air sample and data processing office.

IV.SECOND PRESENTATION

THE POSSIBILITY OF A WORLD FREE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS WITHIN THE CONINES OF THE NON PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT) BY MS. NORA LAZAR, UNIVERSITY OF SZEGED, PhD STUDENT IN INTERNATIONAL LAW

Ms. Lazar discussed the Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and disarmament after the Second World War when weapons of mass destruction (WMD) posed a serious threat. The NPT was signed in 1968 and entered into force on 5th March 1970.

Her presentation was based on three pillars;

- I. NON PROLOFERATION Article I-II, no transfer of nuclear weapons.
- II. NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT Article IV, Secession if nuclear weapons, through international negotiation in good faith. This term is ambiguous as no-one believed the end of nuclear weapons.
- III. PEACEFUL USE OF NUCLEAR ENGAGEMEMT Article III, Inalienable rights for all states to have nuclear weapons.

Ms. Lazar explained that the NPT is based on consensus, acquiring nuclear power for peaceful use of energy, a world free of nuclear weapons. She further explained some **achievements** by the NPT including;

- *First*, the number of new weapons states has decreased; less than ten nuclear weapons states in the 21st century.
- *Second*, it is also difficult for states to acquire nuclear weapons without being noticed.
- *Third*, there is a negative security assurance from the 1995 RevCon. These should be legally binding documents.
- *Fourth*, there is balance in the international community, if global zero is reached; it is difficult to maintain world order.

The limitations of the NPT include;

- Uncertainty in relation to state parties, Syria, Libya, North Korea and Iran. It also cements uneven system of relations between member states
 - The Permanent members of the UN Security Council, four official nuclear powers are members of the Security Council.
- States which are not party to the Treaty have already acquired nuclear, for example India and U.S.
- Non-state actors are surfacing off terrorism which gets aid, training and aim to eliminate civilians. It is hard for non-state actors to acquire nuclear weapons and make dirty bombs.

The Solutions

Ms. Lazar suggested strengthening the role of Non Proliferation Treaty and the IAEA. Ms. Lazar also showed a video clip of the Tzar Bomb in the Soviet Union which is considered to be the biggest nuclear detonated bomb in the Soviet Union. Hiroshima bomb is estimated to be 15kt and Tzar Bomb is 50kt.

IV. CONCLUSION

Ms. Lazar concluded that the NPT is the cornerstone for non-proliferation; however, there are many misbehaving countries, non-state parties and non-state actors.

The response from the jury

Prof. Jonsson commented that though there are efforts on the NPT, we can dismantle the existing weapons but we cannot destroy the knowledge that people have, therefore we are doomed to the weapons.

Prof. Kornprobst commented that there is the need to include in the research some of the outcome of the NPT Conferences. Further, the question of a global zero is one of the difficult ones in the international community due to the principle of sovereignty vs. the international laws/treaties that prohibit nuclear proliferation such as NPT and Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

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