

# United Nations Security Council: Emergency Meeting on Internal Political Tensions in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

MtAUN 2019: Crisis Committee Background Guide



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Issue: Emergency Meeting on Internal Political Tensions in the DPRK

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Position: Presidents of Security Council

*Nota bene: This is a Model UN Crisis simulation - it varies considerably from a General Assembly, in that live updates will be given as the simulation unfolds. These updates are delivered both in the form of "Emergency Announcements" to all delegates present, as well as privately in the form of notes sent from the Presidents of the Council to individual delegates. As such, this simulation may require delegates to think and respond more quickly than in a typical Model UN simulation.*

*We are confident this will create a dynamic and social learning experience that is difficult to achieve in a traditional classroom setting - but it is key that delegates are experienced enough with Model United Nations to feel comfortable speaking to surprise events, on little notice. We have elected to keep this background guide brief: delegates should not prepare materials to be presented in-session in too much depth, as they may be rendered irrelevant after this "breaking news" begins to come in. Instead, delegates should prepare by knowing well their country's stance on the issues being discussed. More advice can be found below in the "How to Prepare" section.*

## General Overview:

The UN Security Council will convene an Emergency Meeting to discuss what appears to be a collapse of the Kim regime's control of the DPRK (North Korea). Information coming from within the country is limited and contradictory - reports claim Kim Jong-un is missing, ill or deceased. State media maintains he is alive and well. The only reliable information comes from Swedish diplomats on the ground in Pyongyang, who can confirm some sort of power struggle is afoot. Delegates will be responsible for approaching a dangerously volatile situation with limited information. As new information flows in, they must adapt their strategies and diplomacy to de-escalate the crisis. Nuclear conflict must be averted.

## Definition of Key Terms

### UNSC

*The United Nations Security Council.* Founded in 1945 with the ratification of the Charter, the UNSC is a 15-member council charged with ensuring international peace and security, approving new members to the United Nations, and approving any changes to its charter.

### P5

The *Permanent Five*. The permanent five members of the security council; The United States, Russia, China, France and the United Kingdom.

### *Non-permanent members.*

The remaining 10 Security Council members are elected by the General Assembly for two-year terms: five from African and Asian states, one from Eastern European states, two from Latin American states, and two from Western European and other states. In 2019, these states are Belgium, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Germany, Indonesia, Kuwait, Peru, Poland and South Africa. Five are cycled-through every year (i.e., five are elected annually).

### DPRK

*Democratic People's Republic of Korea*, a.k.a. North Korea

### ROK

*Republic of Korea*, a.k.a. South Korea

### ICBM

*Intercontinental Ballistic Missile.* These surface-based missiles are capable of launching from one region of the world and landing thousands of kilometres away, on an entirely different continent - hence the name. Eliminating the need for a manual, airplane-delivered attack, the development of ICBMs rendered many early Cold War air defence systems useless. The DPRK is in possession of these missiles, though how well they actually function is unknown.

### DMZ

*Demilitarized Zone.* In this case, the "DMZ" refers specifically to the heavily-guarded border between the DPRK and ROK.

### ICAN

*International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons.* This Nobel Peace Prize-winning global civil society coalition was in 2007. It represents over 540 organizations in over 100 countries.

*Nuclear non-proliferation.*

Stopping the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons-related technology and information from nuclear-armed states to non-nuclear weapons armed states. (Nuclear *proliferation* occurred with the fall of the USSR, when several nuclear weapons went missing and remain missing to this day).

R2P

*Right to Protect Doctrine.* (a.k.a. United Nations Resolution 1674 (2006)). The obligation for the international community to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. This doctrine is considered controversial as such interventions are, by definition, directly at odds with the concept of state sovereignty.

## Timeline of Events

The following is an excellent overview by the BBC of the DPRK's history.

Delegates should read it: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-pacific-15278612>.

CNN also provides a more recent, Nuclear-focused timeline here:

<https://www.cnn.com/2013/10/29/world/asia/north-korea-nuclear-timeline---fast-facts/index.html>.



<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-projectile/north-korea-fires-missiles-int-o-sea-fresh-nuclear-talks-in-doubt-idUSKCN1UJ302>

## Other useful resources

*The Problem with UN Veto Power:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HPAONq36HKg>

*Five countries elected to the UN Security Council:*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=epF\\_3nQOiZk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=epF_3nQOiZk)

*Trump Chairs UN Security Council Meeting on non-proliferation meeting*

(you definitely do not need to watch all of this, for the record):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wi90wIZk4dY>

## Nuclear Weapons

With the knowledge gained from this background guide and that you have done as a delegate, the next thing would be to familiarize yourself with a technical understanding of nuclear weapons. As well, it will become useful for the duration of the conference to understand how this tension in the DPRK will affect the future of nuclear weapons as we know it.



Country	Russia	US	France	China	UK	Pakistan	India	Israel	N. Korea
Deployed	1,600	1,750	290	0	120	0	0	0	?
Stockpiled/non-deployed/other	2,750	2,050	10	280	95	150 <sup>A</sup>	140 <sup>B</sup>	80	60
Retired/waiting to be dismantled	2,500	2,650	?	0	?	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,850</b>	<b>6,450</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>60<sup>C</sup></b>

A. Some data suggest Pakistan has 140–150 nuclear weapons, which are left unassembled in storage until launch. (FAS)

B. Similarly, some data suggest India has 130–140 unassembled nuclear weapons in storage. (FAS)

C. According to a WaPo story that cites a confidential US report, N. Korea has miniaturized a nuclear warhead and controls 30–60 weapons. However, some independent estimates suggest N. Korea has only 10–20 assembled.

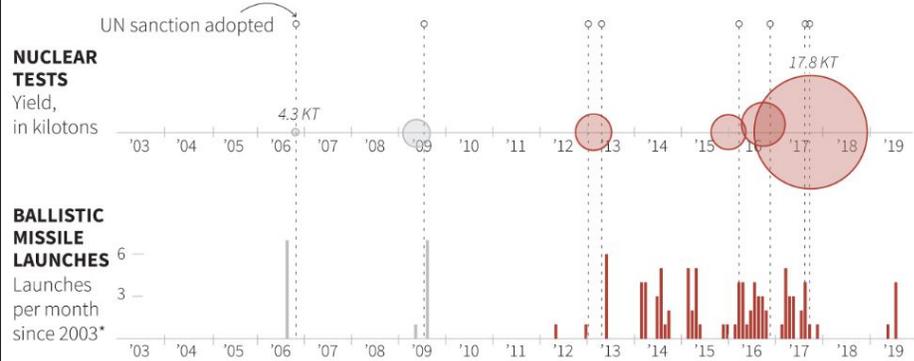
Source: Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists; Federation of American Scientists; SIPRI; The Washington Post

<https://www.businessinsider.com/nuclear-weapons-stockpiles-world-map-2017-8>

## North Korea's missile and nuclear tests

All nuclear tests and ballistic missile launches under the leadership of Kim Jong Il and Kim Jong Un.

● Kim Jong Il leadership ● Kim Jong Un leadership



\*Includes both successful and failed launches; includes Satellite Launch Vehicles (SLVs).

Sources: The CNS North Korea Missile Test Database, Nuclear Threat Initiative; Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS); NORSAR; United Nations; Reuters

Staff, 31/07/2019

REUTERS

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-projectile/north-korea-fires-missiles-int-o-sea-fresh-nuclear-talks-in-doubt-idUSKCN1UJ302>

## UN involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

The United Nations Security Council has passed resolutions regarding nuclear weapons in the past that would be of interest to look at before the conference, such as the following:

- Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)
- Partial Test Ban Treaty (PTBT)
- Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)
- Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)
- Resolution 50 (1996) -- CTBT
- Resolution 71/258
- Other resolutions specific (in more recent context) to nuclear disarmament GA:
  - A/RES/71/258 (2016)
  - A/RES/70/33 (2015)
  - A/RES/69/41 (2014)
  - A/RES/68/46 (2013)
  - A/RES/67/56 (2012)

## Preparation before the Conference

Here are some tips that will help you be better prepared to be part of the Security Council. Since this is not the same as other committees that run during a Model United Nations Conference, it is essential that you familiarize yourself with the following:

## Delegation

It is very important that before the conference, you do research upon the topic in question and the stand that your country/nation takes. The following is a list of the members that will be represented in the conference:

*The Permanent Five (P5):*

- China
- France
- The Russian Federation
- The United Kingdom
- The United States

*Ten non-permanent members elected for a two-year term are the following:*

- Belgium
- Cote d'Ivoire
- Dominican Republic
- Equatorial Guinea
- Germany
- Indonesia
- Kuwait
- Peru
- Poland
- South Africa

*Veto Power*

The biggest difference between these two groups is that the five permanent members have veto power. This veto power allows those five members to veto on any substantive resolution. This power will only be used during voting procedures and does not apply to procedural votes. The latter are votes like any vote that concerns to the flow of the committee like extending speaking time for a delegate.

Now that you have become familiar with your country's stance and their usage of nuclear weapons, the next step you would like to take is to understand its relation to the other countries mentioned above. Especially those that have nuclear weapons and how that has affected your relationship with such state. This research will therefore mean a historical take since nuclear weapons have been a critical aspect of state relations since the Second World War. Since there are some countries that have possession of nuclear weapons and they are not part of the committee, you should still want to understand how that will affect your relationship to those countries that are part of the committee during this session.

*Refresher for delegates and how to succeed in the UNSC:*

<https://bestdelegate.com/five-tips-on-how-to-succeed-in-the-security-council/>

References:

<https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/tpnw/>

<https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/tpnw/>

<https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/>

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2016/09/540482-security-council-adopts-resolution-nuclear-non-proliferation-and-nuclear>

<https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/tpnw/>

<http://reachingcriticalwill.org/disarmament-fora/others/unsc>

<https://www.icanw.org/campaign-news/draft-un-resolution-to-ban-nuclear-weapons-in-2017/>

<https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-documents/non-proliferation/>