

Current Affairs

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The UN efforts for nuclear non-proliferation.

(Ans)

The UN efforts for Nuclear Non-Proliferation

→ Introduction :

- The United Nations (UN) has been at the forefront of international efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and promote disarmament.
- The threat of nuclear weapons poses a significant risk to global peace and security, and the UN has recognized the need for collective action to address this challenge.

→ Early Efforts (1945 - 1960) :

- The UN's involvement in nuclear non-proliferation dates back to its founding in 1945, with the aim of preventing the use of atomic energy for military purposes.
- In 1959, the General Assembly established the Committee on Disarmament to promote international cooperation on disarmament and non-proliferation.

→ Treatment on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (1968) :

- The NPT is a landmark treaty aimed at preventing the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology.
- The treaty recognizes five nuclear-weapon states (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States) and commits them to work towards disarmament.
- The NPT also establishes the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to verify compliance with the treaty.

→ UN Security Council Resolutions :

- Resolution 255 (1968) : called upon states to refrain from manufacturing or acquiring nuclear weapons.
- Resolution 984 (1995) : recognizes the threat posed by nuclear weapons and encouraged states to work towards disarmament.
- Resolution 1887 (2009) : emphasized the need for nuclear disarmament & nuclear non-proliferation.

→ International Atomic Energy Agency :

- The IAEA is responsible for verifying compliance with the NPT and ensuring that nuclear materials are used for peaceful purposes only.
- The IAEA's safeguard's systems is designed to detect & deter the diversion of nuclear materials to military purposes.

"The IAEA & the UN have collaborated on various initiatives, including the development of Joint Comprehensive Plan Of Action with Iran"

~ UN (2015)

"The IAEA has provided technical assistance to support the dismantling of nuclear weapons programs in countries such as South Africa & Lybia."

~ IAEA (2019)

"The IAEA's safeguards system is designed to detect & deter the diversion of nuclear materials from peaceful purposes to military or other non-peaceful purposes."

~ IAEA (2020)

→ SALT 1 (1972) :

- Limited to the development of ballistic missile defenses (ABM systems) to two sites per countries.
- Established a ceiling on the number of intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) & submarine launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs).
- Recognized the importance of reducing the risk on nuclear war & promoting disarmaments.

"The SALT 1 treaty was effective in reducing the risk of nuclear war by limiting the dev. of ballistic missile defenses."

[~"Critical Evaluation" by John Newhouse]
, published in foreign affairs, 1973.]

→ SALT 2 (1979) :

- Further reducing the number of strategic nuclear weapons.
- Introduced the concept of "equal aggregates", ensuring that both the US & USSR had equal numbers of strategic nuclear weapons.
- Established the Joint Compliance & Inspection Commission to verify compliance with the treaty.

"The SALT 2 treaty established the concept of 'Equal Aggregates', which helped to promote parity & stability in the nuclear arms race."

~"A new Era in Arms Control" by Strobe Talbott, (1979)

→ START 1 (1991) :

- Reduced 30% app. the no. of nuclear weapons as compared to SALT-2 levels.
- Established a ceiling of 6000 nuclear war heads per country.

- Introduced the concept of elimination.
- "The START 1 treaty led to a significant reduction in the no. of strategic nuclear weapons, which helped to reduce the risk of nuclear war."

~ "A New Era in nuclear Arms Control" by
Maechel Mandelbaum (1991)

→ START-2 (1993)

- Reduce the number of strategic nuclear weapon by an additional 50%
- Established a ceiling of 3500 nuclear warheads per country.
- Introduced the concept of deactivation.

→ Conclusion:

- The UN has played a crucial role in promoting nuclear non-~~weapons~~ proliferation & disarmaments through various efforts including IAEA, NPT, SALT, ABM & START treaties.
- Continued international cooperation and support are essential for achieving a world free of nuclear weapons.

"UN has played a critical role in promoting nuclear non-proliferation & disarmaments, & efforts have been recognized by the international community."

~ (IAEA, 2024)
