

## POLITICAL

**Chairs:** Ian Moreau, Esther San Román

### **Topic 1: The Issue of Global Denuclearization**

#### *Video*

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JuRPK6drLbw>

#### *Articles*

1. <https://www.brookings.edu/opinions/is-a-world-without-nuclear-weapons-really-possible/>
2. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/030437547800300301?journalCode=alta>

#### *Overview*

Nuclear disarmament is the act of reducing or eliminating nuclear weapons. It can also be the end state of a nuclear-weapons-free world, in which nuclear weapons are completely eliminated. The term denuclearization is also used to describe the process leading to complete nuclear disarmament. There has been recently an issue in between North Korea and the United States of America because of this. Denuclearization would get rid of the worlds greatest military threat there is to human species. Many countries have been in talks to accept global denuclearization, but on the other hand there are many countries that refuse to accept this. An organization called “Global Zero” is in process of getting rid of the global denuclearization and it’s aim is to get rid of all nuclear weapons by 2030 throughout a lot of reunions. Countries have refused to accept this idea, but Global Zero pursuits there goal until it is achieved. They reached up to 100 signatories in 2007 to become an official organization.

This issue has been administered by the United Nations in many situations. Many argue that a world without nuclear weapons is not possible since many wars are going on and a lot of countries possess various nuclear weapons.

Nuclear weapons proliferation, whether by state or nonstate actors, poses one of the greatest threats to international security today. Iran's apparent efforts to acquire nuclear weapons, what amounts to North Korean nuclear blackmail, and the revelation of the A.Q. Khan black market nuclear network all underscore the far-from-remote possibility that a terrorist group or a so-called rogue state will acquire weapons of mass destruction or materials for a dirty bomb.

The problem of nuclear proliferation is global, and any effective response must also be multilateral. Nine states (China, France, India, Israel, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia, the United

Kingdom, and the United States) are known or believed to have nuclear weapons, and more than thirty others (including Japan, Germany, and South Korea) have the technological ability to quickly acquire them. Amid volatile energy costs, the accompanying push to expand nuclear energy, growing concerns about the environmental impact of fossil fuels, and the continued diffusion of scientific and technical knowledge, access to dual-use technologies seems destined to grow.

In the background, a nascent global consensus regarding the need for substantial nuclear arms reductions, if not complete nuclear disarmament, has increasingly taken shape. In April 2009, for instance, U.S. president Barack Obama reignited global nonproliferation efforts through a landmark speech in Prague. Subsequently, in September of the same year, the UN Security Council (UNSC) unanimously passed Resolution 1887, which called for accelerated efforts toward total nuclear disarmament. In December 2011, the number of states who have ratified the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty increased to 157, heightening appeals to countries such as the United States, Israel, and Iran to follow suit.

## Topic 2: The Issue of Legal Identification

### *Video + article*

1. <https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/voices/how-legal-identity-leads-better-life>

### *Articles*

1. [https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2017/05/making-everyone-count-the-case-for-national-identification-systems/?utm\\_content=bufferae647&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=facebook.com&utm\\_campaign=buffer](https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2017/05/making-everyone-count-the-case-for-national-identification-systems/?utm_content=bufferae647&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook.com&utm_campaign=buffer)
2. <http://blogs.worldbank.org/ic4d/counting-uncounted-11-billion-people-without-ids>
3. <https://www.equaltimes.org/africa-s-invisible-millions?lang=en#.XEYdpxNKh0s>
4. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/213581486378184357/pdf/112614-REVISED-English-ID4D-IdentificationPrinciples-Folder-web-English-ID4D-IdentificationPrinciples.pdf>

### *Overview*

There are an estimated 1.1 billion people worldwide who cannot officially prove their identity. “Almost half of those living in sub-Saharan Africa — approximately 500 million people — do not have proof of legal identity.” (World Economic Forum). 78% live in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia, thus these regions should be the focus of global efforts. 40% are children under the age of 18 (one in six are under the age of five), which the first of the ten Principles on Identification of the World Bank would like to ensure “universal coverage for individuals from birth to death (...).” (Principles on Identification). In addition, more than half live in lower-middle income economies, while a third live in low-income economies. These people live their life without proof of identity, and millions are missing out on primary documentation needed for legal identification, basic rights and services like social allowances, health care, school enrollment, the right to vote, bank accounts, mobile phones, and the ability to move within and outside countries is often restricted or out of reach. (Open Society Foundations).

This issue has been addressed by the international community’s decision to set target 16.9 in the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Goals: “to provide legal identity for all, including birth registration” by the year 2030.

To overcome this issue, governments need to understand the scale of the challenge, and provide legal identification with basic legal, social and economic rights, and opportunities.

The aftermath of World War II and the reconfiguration of nation states created a surge of stateless populations, which led the drafters of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights to include Article 15, which states that “everyone has the right to a nationality” and should not be deprived arbitrarily of his or her nationality. Statelessness exists in every region of the world, but remains a largely “hidden” problem without government recognition.

What does it mean to be stateless? A stateless person is someone who, under national laws, does not enjoy citizenship – the legal bond between a government and an individual – in any country. While some people are *de jure* or legally stateless persons (meaning they are not recognized as citizens under the laws of any state), many people are *de facto* or effectively stateless persons (meaning they are not recognized as citizens by any state even if they have a claim to citizenship under the laws of one of more states.)

How many stateless people are there throughout the world? At the end of 2011, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (the agency mandated to prevent and reduce statelessness) counted over 3.5 million stateless persons in 64 countries, but estimated that the actual number of stateless persons worldwide may be as high as 12 million. What are the causes of statelessness? The main causes tend to be failure of hospitals and other places of birth to register newborns properly, lack of financial ability to cover the cost of registration and birth certificates, customs and traditional attitudes about birth registration, birth to stateless parents, political change and transfer of territory, which may alter the nationality status of citizens of the former state(s), administrative oversights, procedural problems, conflicts of law between two countries, or destruction of official records, alteration of nationality during marriage or the dissolution of marriage between couples from different countries, targeted discrimination against minorities, laws restricting acquisition of citizenship, laws restricting the rights of women to pass on their nationality to their children, laws relating to children born out of wedlock and during transit, loss or relinquishment of nationality without first acquiring another.

# **Topic 3: The Issue of International Cooperation and Peace in Outer Space**

## *Videos*

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3SqqsUzY42s>

## *Articles*

1. <http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/copuos/index.html>
2. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0094576597000465>
3. <http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/informationfor/media/2016-unis-os-462.html>

## *Overview*

Efforts in the United Nations to maintain outer space for peaceful purposes began in 1957. The objective of this issue is to ensure “the ability to maintain the conduct of space activities indefinitely into the future in a manner that” gives “access to the benefits of the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes.” ( . ) Last December of 2018, Donald Trump ordered the creation of a U.S. Space Command as a unified combatant command. The creation of this force could encourage other nations to join in and create similar ‘Space Forces.’ However, this could result in a competition for ‘dominance’, and make space a conflict area. Moreover, international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space is becoming even more essential as space technology can provide innovative solutions.

There have been treaties by the United Nations aimed at preventing the placement of weapons in outer space and prohibiting the use of anti-satellite weapons to reach outer space peace.

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) was established in 1959 by the United Nations General Assembly in order to review and foster international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space and to consider legal issues arising from the exploration of outer space. Since its establishment, the Committee has addressed such issues as benefits from space activities, the definition and delimitation of outer space and the use of the geostationary orbit, implications of remote sensing, space sciences, space-based communications, navigation

and meteorological systems, as well as use of nuclear power sources in outer space, space debris and spin-off benefits of space technology. “The exploration and use of outer space ... shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development, and shall be the province of all mankind.” This is said in the first article of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies or “Outer Space Treaty”. The United Nations has advocated for the “interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international cooperation and understanding”. Many countries work together of cooperation, including: Canada, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, Japan, USA, and Russia. Though the concern of major countries such as China not working together with other global organizations and countries is a concern.