

PS114. International Security in a Changing World

Study Guide for the 2016 NPT RevCon Simulation

In preparation for your role in the 2016 NPT Review Conference Simulation, you should attempt to research and answer the following questions from the perspective of your assigned delegation.

Background on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

- What year was it signed?
- What year did your country sign it? Why?
- What are the three main issues?
 - Why are they sometimes controversial?
- Have you ever had any problems with the NPT? Why?
- What did your delegation do during the 2010 NPT RevCon? 2015 NPT RevCon?

For more information, please see:

- <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/disarmament-fora/npt/2015>
- <http://www.nti.org/analysis/articles/2015-npt-review-conference-background/>
- <http://www.nti.org/treaties-and-regimes/treaty-on-the-non-proliferation-of-nuclear-weapons>

Main Issue 1: Disarmament

- What is the state of the US' current arsenal? What about Russia? Why are they debating modernization programs? How does your country feel about that?
- What is the significance of bunker busters?
- Why do some countries have first-use doctrines and others don't?
- If your country has nuclear weapons, do you have a no first use doctrine? Why or why not?
- Has your country signed any other arms control agreements? When? With who?

Main Issue 2: Non-proliferation

- What is your country's position on the Humanitarian Initiative?
- Has your country ever engaged in nuclear transfers?
- What do you think about nuclear free zones?
- What is your position on the Middle East NW Free Zone? Have they expressed an opinion about other regional issues?

For more information, please see:

- https://www.armscontrol.org/ACT/2015_0708/Features/The-2015-NPT-Review-Conference-and-the-Future-of-The-Nonproliferation-Regime
- <https://www.armscontrol.org/pressroom/press-release/2015-05-22/Nuclear-Nonproliferation-Treaty-Review-Conference-Outcome-a-Warning-Sign-Say-Arms-Control-Experts>

Main Issue 3: Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy

- What's the controversy behind peaceful uses of nuclear energy?
- How do reactors work?
- Why is 20% enrichment so important? What's the difference between low-enriched uranium (LEU) and high-enriched uranium (HEU)?
- What's the difference between plutonium and uranium?
- Please review the technical aspects of the NPT Review Conference and accompanying press coverage about it.

For more information, please see:

- <http://www.iaea.org/sites/default/files/publications/magazines/bulletin/bull17-4/17403502126.pdf>
- <http://bigstory.ap.org/article/uranium-enrichment-heart-nuclear-disputes>
- <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/reaction/etc/faqs.html>

Country-Specific

- How wealthy is your country? Who are their major trading partners? Military allies? Are you engaged in any security disputes or trade agreements with Security Council members in the simulation?
- What is your leverage over other countries? What are your weaknesses?
 - What do you want the US, China, Russia, Great Britain, or France to do for you in exchange for your support?
 - What can you do for the Security Council members that would make them listen to you?

See: Nuclear Threat Initiative: <http://www.nti.org/>

Relations with Other Countries

- What describes the state of relations between your country and the US right now? Why?
- What describes the state of relations between your country and Iran right now? Why?
- What describes the state of relations between your country and Israel right now?
- What is your country's nuclear history?
 - Did you have weapons?
 - Did you explore the possibility of weapons?
 - Do you have nuclear energy?
- Have you taken a role in previous international agreements? Nuclear agreements?
 - Would you describe your past participation in nuclear agreement as that of an observer? Facilitator? Or mediator?
- What coalitions are you a part of?
 - Do you think your country will want a leadership position in the coalition?