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**Preparation Paper/Study Guide:**

**International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**

**"Nuclear Technology and Applications Included in Health  
Care"**

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## **1. Welcome by the Chairing-Team**

Dear delegates!

At this point, we like to introduce the chairing team of the 2019 VIMUN IAEA Committee – ourselves! We are offered the honourable task to chair the IAEA committee for the days coming in August, we would like to take the chance to introduce ourselves here briefly.

### **Luis Moser, Chair (Jordan)**

Honourable delegates

It is a pleasure to welcome you at the VIMUN 2019, at once being the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VIMUN. My name is Luis Moser and I have the honour of guiding you through the days coming with my Co-Chair, BaharaMuradi.

Born and raised in Salzburg, famous for its classical music prodigy as well as its baroque architecture, soon I had the opportunity to see quite different parts of the world. So far, my jobs academic education and my occupations brought me to live in other countries already three times. There, I had the chance of experiencing the stance towards politics as well as the UN from another perspective. This sharpened my eye for tolerance and manifested my will to contribute in finding a global solution to worldwide challenges, not just a mere compromise.

Therefore, I take pride in walking you through this year's IAEA committee to find a proper resolution for the challenges ahead of us. With this being said, I am looking forward to the adventure we are about to embark on.

See you soon!

### **BaharaMuradi, Co-Chair (Armenia)**

Distinguished delegates

About my person, I am BaharaMuradi. Originally, I come from Afghanistan, but Pakistan is the place I grew up in and visited the school. Since 2016 I have been living in Austria and hopefully, by August next year I am done with my A-levels.

My interest in international relations and UN-related activities appreciate me every time to participate on this or the other occasion in Austria and Europe. This year's VIMUN session will be my fourth time entering the VIC building, nonetheless, my very first time as a chairing member. Each time I went through new experiences as a delegate. However, I wish my colleague Luis Moser and you all a very great session with my company as a vice-chairperson.

Of course, I affirm that to best of my belief and knowledge we will draft a resolution in accordance with the provided topic. I am eagerly looking forward to facing your hot diplomatic discourses on behalf of your countries and the upcoming exciting compromises.

## 2. Committee Introduction

The Committee *The International Atomic Energy Agency* (IAEA) seeks to promote peaceful use of nuclear energy and to inhibit its use for any military purpose. The IAEA belongs to the category of *Specialized agencies* and as such is an autonomous international organization that was established on 29 July 1957 on foundation of its own international treaty the IAEA Statute.

Though having been established as an independent institution, the IAEA still reports to the United Nations. The creation of the IAEA was proposed by the American President Dwight D. Eisenhower. In his famous *Atoms for Peace*-speech, President Eisenhower addressed the international community by calling out for an organization which would support the peaceful use of nuclear technology. He wanted the creation of such an institution in response to the deep fears and great expectations resulting from the discovery of nuclear energy since 1945. When the negotiations were held on October 23rd, 1956, President Eisenhower's vision of solving the "nuclear dilemma" became a reality. Diplomats and lawyers, advised by scientists, and drawing on the precedents set by other organizations, developed the main ideas of the organization into a charter of an international agency. The IAEA Statute was approved unanimously by 81 nations on that date. The IAEA Statute entered into force, thus officially creating the IAEA, on July 29th, 1957 and in October of the same year, delegates from 59 states convened in Vienna, Austria, for the first General Conference which lasted three weeks. Since that initial meeting, IAEA membership has expanded to 162 member states and the mission of the agency has evolved alongside advancements in nuclear science.

The Statute lays down the three primary goals of the agency as:

- Promoting Science and Technology,
- Developing nuclear safety standards to protect human health and the environment against any form of nuclear threat (radiations, nuclear waste, etc.) and
- the safeguard and application of the "three pillars" expressed in the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of nuclear weapons (Non-proliferation, disarmament and the right to peacefully use nuclear technology)

As stated previously, consider the IAEA as a specialized agency, which means it works within the machinery of the UN. Normally those agencies work within the framework of the Economic and Social Council, but as explained above the IAEA does most of its work and report to the General Assembly and the Security Council.

The IAEA consists of three policy making bodies:

- the General Conference,
- the Board of Governors and
- the Member States.

The General Conference is the highest policymaking body of the IAEA. It is composed of representatives of all member states of the Agency. The General Conference meets annually to consider and approve the Agency's program and budget. The Board of Governors, to which 35 members of the IAEA are elected, is the main executive organ of the IAEA. The Board generally consists of experts and meets five times a year. Due to the relationship of the IAEA with the UN, the organization has stressed its mission to be under the umbrella of the UN and in line with the principles of the Charter of the UN. Still, the IAEA is somewhat unique within the UN system as it is the only agency focusing on issues specifically related to nuclear technology.

As stated above, the General Conference's annual reports are submitted to the UN General Assembly Plenary and, if related to issues of international security, to the Security Council. The IAEA's work is closely linked to the Security Council (SC), which can request the Agency to take actions on issues concerning peace and security. SC Resolutions regarding safeguards and the proliferation of nuclear weapons such as SC Resolutions 1373 and 1540 are examples of this cooperation and have become integral parts of the Agency's legal framework. Both Resolutions call for close cooperation with the IAEA to counter nuclear terrorism and the possession of nuclear material by non-state actors. The IAEA has established programs to support Member States in taking effective measures of that concern.

### 3. Nuclear Technology and Applications Included in Health Care

The mandate of the IAEA human health programme originates from Article II of its Statute, which states that the “Agency shall seek to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world”. The main objective of the human health programme is to enhance the capabilities of IAEA Member States in addressing issues related to the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of health problems through the development and application of nuclear techniques, within a framework of quality assurance.

The IAEA, together with the World Health Organization and stakeholders from numerous medical physics professional societies worldwide, including the International Organization for Medical Physics (IOMP), the European Federation of Organisations for Medical Physics, the American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM), the Latin American Medical Physics Association, the Asia–Oceania Federation of Organizations for Medical Physics, the European Society for Radiotherapy and Oncology, the European Commission and the International Radiation Protection Association, as well as regional counterparts from Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America, met in Vienna in May 2009 to plan and coordinate the new project. A shortage of clinically qualified medical physicists (CQMPs), insufficient education and training (especially properly organized and coordinated clinical training), and lack of professional recognition were identified as the main problems to be addressed under this project.<sup>1</sup>

The IAEA’s Statute authorizes the Agency to “establish or adopt... standards of safety for protection of health and minimization of danger to life and property” — standards that the IAEA must use in its own operations, and which States can apply by means of their regulatory provisions for nuclear and radiation safety. The IAEA does this in consultation with the competent organs of the United Nations and with the specialized agencies concerned. A comprehensive set of high-quality standards under regular review is a key element of a stable and sustainable global safety regime, as is the IAEA’s assistance in their application.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>PUB1610\_Web.pdf

<sup>2</sup>PUB1843\_Web.pdf

Radioactivity is a natural phenomenon and natural sources of radiation are features of the environment. Radiation and radioactive substances have many beneficial applications, ranging from power generation to uses in medicine, industry and agriculture. The radiation risks to workers and the public and to the environment that may arise from these applications have to be assessed and, if necessary, controlled.

Activities such as the medical uses of radiation, the operation of nuclear installations, the production, transport and use of radioactive material, and the management of radioactive waste must therefore be subject to standards of safety.

Regulating safety is a national responsibility. However, radiation risks may transcend national borders, and international cooperation serves to promote and enhance safety globally by exchanging experience and by improving capabilities to control hazards, to prevent accidents, to respond to emergencies and to mitigate any harmful consequences.

States have an obligation of diligence and duty of care and are expected to fulfil their national and international undertakings and obligations.

International safety standards provide support for States in meeting their obligations under general principles of international law, such as those relating to environmental protection. International safety standards also promote and assure confidence in safety and facilitate international commerce and trade.

A global nuclear safety regime is in place and is being continuously improved. IAEA safety standards, which support the implementation of binding international instruments and national safety infrastructures, are a cornerstone of this global regime.

Safety is not an end in itself but a prerequisite for the purpose of the protection of people in all States and of the environment — now and in the future. The risks associated with ionizing radiation must be assessed and controlled without unduly limiting the contribution of nuclear energy to equitable and sustainable development. Governments, regulatory bodies and operators everywhere must ensure that nuclear material and radiation sources are used beneficially, safely and ethically.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup>PUB1841\_Web.pdf



#### 4. Securing peace: How to deal with an intricaded matter in the Middle East?

The tensions rose high between the United States of America and the Islamic Republic of Iran – and still rise high. Recent history between those two countries began in 2015, when Iran signed a deal with America and other powers in order to limit the nuclear programme of Iran to civilian use only. According to experts, Iran was complying to the deal up until the deal was ditched by America under the Trump administration. From that point on, Iran resumed to stockpile low-enriched uranium.<sup>4</sup>

As not only a dispute about the nuclear programme of Iran sparked up again, another aspect of the ongoing conflict emerged. America accuses Iran of attacking ships in the Strait of Hormuz. On the other side, Iran blames America for intruding into Iranian sovereign territory with a spydrone, which was then shot down by Iran.<sup>5</sup>

As the conflict further evolved, America's strategy consists of applying *maximum pressure*, as Mr. Trump stated, to force Iran on the negotiation table. Therefore, America looms to impose new sanctions on Iran. On the other side, Iranian officials may resort to closing the Strait of Hormuz, through which one-fifth of the world's oil passes.<sup>6</sup>

So far, all the sabre-rattling and the mutual threats lead but only to frosty temperature on the diplomatic level between the two countries. The international community is in high demand to resolve the matter urgently before a new level of the escalating conflict is reached. The Middle East does not come to a rest since its borders – roughly as we know them today – were drawn on the tables of negotiations at the end of WW I.<sup>7</sup> The conflicts in the region included a vast number of countries of almost all parts of the world in different ways. They affected – and still do – a great number of people. Therefore, it is our vital interest as international community as well as IAEA committee to discuss possible solutions with the voice of all being heard. What steps can the IAEA take in order to find a sustainable and an acceptable solution for the civilian use of nuclear power as well as stability for the Middle East region?

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<sup>4</sup>The Economist: Howtocontain Iran (2019)

<sup>5</sup>The Economist: Howtocontain Iran (2019)

<sup>6</sup>Financial Times: Trump's 'maximum pressure' Iran strategystokes war fears (2019)

<sup>7</sup>Fromkin, D.: A Peace to End All Peace (1989)

## **6. USA vs. North Korea: Emerging nuclear conflicts?**

“It is 10 years this month since IAEA inspectors were required to leave North Korea. Since then, the Agency has not been able to carry out any verification activities in the country. However, the Agency continues to monitor the DPRK’s nuclear programme and evaluate all safeguards-relevant information available to it, including open source information and satellite imagery.”, says the IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano on 5 April 2019.

For three decades, North Korea’s pursuit of a nuclear arsenal has been the predominant U.S. foreign policy concern on the Korean Peninsula, threatening both regional stability and the global nonproliferation regime. Although multiple countries have a major stake in the issue, the U.S. has been both the most important interlocutor in attempts to resolve it diplomatically and the leader in global efforts to pressure and isolate North Korea. Efforts to address North Korea’s nuclear weapons program through various combinations of diplomacy and pressure have at times slowed or temporarily halted Pyongyang’s progress, but have failed to roll it back or to fundamentally change the dynamics of conflict on the Peninsula.

As North Korea has dramatically accelerated the pace of progress in building its nuclear program in recent years, and as the Trump administration has alternately leveled threats of military action and engaged in high-profile summitry with Kim Jong-un, this issue has risen to the top of the U.S. foreign policy agenda. The current round of U.S. diplomatic engagement with North Korea may hold enormous consequences for the future of the Korean Peninsula, perhaps leading to the denouement of this long saga – or, despite the high stakes, perhaps simply to another round of all sides “muddling through” with no ultimate resolution in sight. The Trump administration has framed negotiations with North Korea in stark binary terms – either leading to North Korea’s denuclearization and prosperity, or to a more intensified confrontation and conflict – but few experts expect North Korea to give up its nuclear arsenal any time soon.

Though the stakes are now higher and the leadership dynamics much different, U.S. policymakers attempting to address North Korea’s nuclear program are now faced with some of the same complex issues of diplomatic strategy and tactics that have made past rounds of negotiations so difficult. These include coordinating Washington’s position with those of allies and partners in the region despite their disparate interests and policy preferences; identifying the right combination of pressure and incentives to induce positive

action from Pyongyang; and sequencing a complex negotiating process amidst intense mutual distrust. These challenges have been magnified, however, by the mismanaged expectations and chaotic process that have thus far characterized much of the Trump administration's approach to diplomacy with North Korea.

Nevertheless, though policy choices made in Washington, Seoul, or Beijing will shape the environment for negotiations, how North Korea proceeds will ultimately be a result of decisions made in Pyongyang. How far Kim Jong Un is willing to go in making concessions on his nuclear program – and at what price, and for what greater strategic purpose – will remain the central questions as talks continue.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup>The U.S., North Korea, and Nuclear Diplomacy; Author: Daniel Wertz

## 6. Preparation guide

You probably cannot wait until it is the start of August and the commencement of the 25<sup>th</sup> VIMUN – at least we cannot!

However, before the conference starts, there is still some work to be done. You are the ones that fill the conference with life, that lead to interesting discussions and fruitful debates and make innovative resolutions reality. This requires some preparation on your side. While conducting research, try to keep in mind that your primary goal is to *represent your country as realistically as possible*. In advance to the conference we expect all delegates to research your state's position and become experts for the given agenda topic, to familiarize yourself with the rules of procedure (which you can find on our VIMUN homepage) and to practice your debating and writing skills.

Here are some useful hints on how to get prepared for the VIMUN conference:

**Do some research:** The first step after you have been assigned your state and committee will be to do some research in order to prepare for the conference.

These are areas you should investigate:

- The structure and history of the UN
- Nation guide (refer to the VIMUN homepage)
- Research your committee
- Your agenda topics central questions that should guide your research
- Why are these issues important?
- What are possible solutions?
- What is hindering those solutions?
- What has the UN (or other international agencies) done so far, in order to solve these problems?
- What should be done from the perspective of your state to resolve the issues?

For further research apart from reading the study guide we greatly recommend: The UN homepage NGO (particularly those accredited by the UN) Country reports and data published by international or regional organizations such as the World Bank, WHO, OECD, APEC, etc. General socio-economic data: e.g. CIA World Factbook has served delegates in

previous years in gaining a first overview of a member state. Your country's government website Search for speeches made by your country on the topic Search for important resolutions regarding your topic.

## **7. Points to be addressed in the resolution**

- Ways to cope with the challenges in the nuclear verification
- How nuclear power can contribute when planning for nuclear safety and security updates.
- Challenges and opportunities for existing nuclear power plants with respect to the continuous contribution to the avoidance of nuclear conflicts
- How to ensure the availability of resources, including attracting finance and ensuring competitiveness of new nuclear power projects for a better health care system
- Policies to strengthen regulatory interfaces between nuclear and radiation safety and nuclear security
- Strategies to enhance international cooperation and partnership in nuclear power deployment
- Finding a solution to stabilize the situation in the Middle East
- What would be an acceptable solution for the civilian use of nuclear power?
- How can impending conflicts in regard with nuclear power be prevented in the future?

## 8. Important links

<https://www.iaea.org>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North\\_Korea%E2%80%93United\\_States\\_relations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Korea%E2%80%93United_States_relations)

<https://www.ncnk.org/resources/briefing-papers/all-briefing-papers/history-u.s.-dprk-relations>

<https://www.economist.com/>

<https://www.ft.com/>

<https://www.monde-diplomatique.fr/>

<https://www.reuters.com/>

<http://carnegieendowment.org/specialprojects/IranDeal>

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/focus/iran>

<http://www.world-nuclear.org/info/Nuclear-Fuel-Cycle/Introduction/Nuclear-Fuel-Cycle-Overview/>