



Boston University Academy Model United Nations Conference XI

Saturday, January 28th to Sunday, January 29th, 2022

Boston University Academy

Boston, MA

UN COMMITTEE: International Atomic Energy

Agency

(IAEA)

Background Guide

Introduction from the chair and vice-chair:

Hello, Delegates!

My name is Ibukun Owolabi and I am a Junior at Boston University Academy. I will be your Chair for BUAMUN XI and Alex Schultz ('25) will be your Vice Chair.

Even though I had a little Model UN experience in the past, I joined BUAMUN to _____ and to possibly help younger students develop communication and collaborative skills that I knew they would need to succeed in high school. After being a staffer/vice chair for the SOCHUM Committee in freshman year, and a vice chair for ECOSOC in sophomore year, I've learned a lot about BUAMUN and Model UN procedures. I would say my all time favorite memory of BUAMUN was when I had to act out the assassination of a Chinese diplomat over Zoom.

There are a few things that you should know before the conference. It is required for delegates to complete a position paper before the conference. To do so, you must do some further research on the topics we will be discussing in the conference - see the links below for a place to get started with your research. While this may seem like a lot of work, if you space out the work, then things will be much easier. I recommend you have the position paper completed about a week before the conference, so that you can look over it and make any revisions. If you have any questions or concerns before the conference, you can email Alex or me, or reach out to the BUAMUN Administrators (admin@buamun.org). I look forward to seeing you all on the floor and can't wait for the conference!

Sincerely,

Chair
Ibukun Owolabi
Boston University Academy '24
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Vice Chair
Alex Schultz
Boston University Academy '25
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Committee Information:

The International Atomic Energy Agency is a general assembly of the United Nations that works to resolve any, and all, nuclear problems in various fields.

Keeping the United Nations Sustainability Development Goals at a focal point, the IAEA is working on making sure that nuclear technology is being used safely, and that all countries who need nuclear technology can have access to it.

Note In the IAEA committee, there are certain countries who have the power to veto resolutions. At BUAMUN XI, we will not be following this procedure to make things as fair as possible for all delegates.

The two main topics covered in this committee:

Scroll down for information concerning the topics.

Position Paper Guidelines:

This committee requires 2 position papers. It should be written from the perspective and opinion of your assigned country. The absence of at least one position paper will disqualify you (the delegate) from receiving an award. The quality, depth, and clarity of your position paper will influence award decisions. Each position paper should be 1-3 pages and double-spaced. This includes citations which are preferably in the format of footnotes. To insert a footnote, simply click *Insert > Footnote*. Note: A footnote goes after the period. Position papers should follow a general outline with three paragraphs. This is only a suggestion, as long as the paper fits the aforementioned specifications, the number of paragraphs will not be taken into consideration.

Possible position paper outline:

- 1) Introduction to your delegation and the topic as a whole
- 2) The position of your delegation
- 3) Your delegations proposed solutions

Furthermore, the position paper must be titled in the following format:

Delegation: Ibukun Owolabi

School: Boston University Academy

Committee: IAEA

Position: [Your Position]

Topic: [Your Topic]

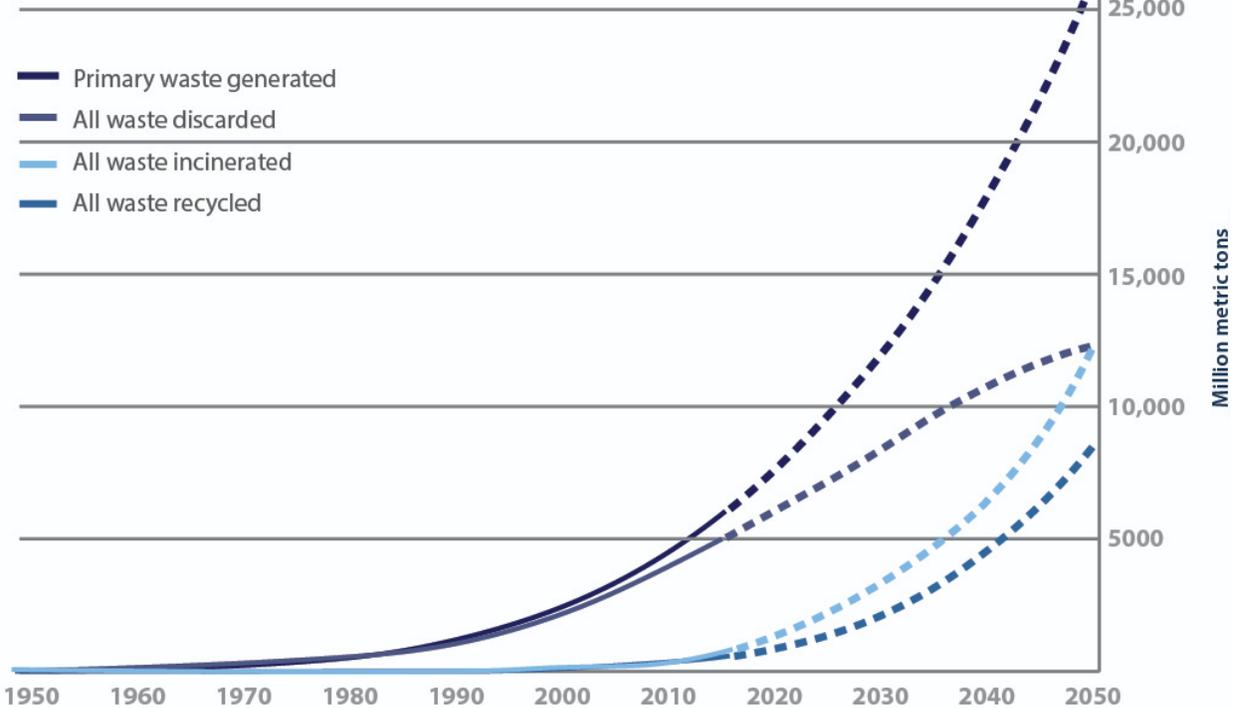
Topic 1: The Use of Nuclear Technology to Solve the Water Pollution Crisis

<https://www.un.org/en/conf/npt/2015/pdf/IAEA%20factsheet.pdf>

General Information

As it currently stands water pollution and its effects are posed to affect the world in a catastrophic way. Almost 5 million people die every year from unsafe water, which is more than every form of violence, and is one of the largest threats to the globe and its people. More than 6 billion pounds of waste are dumped into the ocean each year, which is an obvious danger to the environment, wildlife, and of course people. The crisis is only growing larger, as garbage patches like the Great Pacific Garbage Patch have been growing exponentially and it is expected that there will be 1 ton of plastic for every 3 tons of fish by 2025. Thankfully, in recent years the situation has started to look better, with the advent of nuclear technology and its applications to water monitoring and cleaning. Nuclear technology will provide many techniques to dispose of waste, one of which is radiation technology. Radiation technology is another pathway to a circular and waste free society, which is the goal of many.

CUMULATIVE PLASTIC WASTE GENERATION AND DISPOSAL



Geyer, R., Jambeck, J. R., & Law, K. L. (2017). Production, use, and fate of all plastics ever made. *Science advances*, 3(7), e1700782.

Another part of the IAEA is NUCTEC Plastics, which uses isotopic and nuclear techniques to cut down on pollution. One of these techniques is the use of infrared and Raman Spectroscopy, specifically in regards to tracking and quantifying the amount of pollution in our water. This provides data and analyzes it on a wider scale than previously, and can also demonstrate how ionizing radiation can create usable resources from trash. Deputy Director General of the IAEA Najat Mokhtar says “A main obstacle in conventional plastic recycling is that recycling lowers the quality of plastic and pellets generated,” Mokhtar explained. “You can use radiation to break down plastic polymers having insufficient quality into smaller components and use these to generate new plastic products, thus extending the plastic waste lifecycle.” NUCTEC Plastics and its use of radiation can sort, breakdown, treat, and convert many types of waste and plastics, with less environmental backlash and as a more affordable solution. The high radiation used in the process degrades plastic and polymer much faster than natural and other forms of recycling, and is also more cost effective. Getting this up and running is the combined efforts of many countries, all so plastics and waste are cleaned and reused before they can pollute our waters. In these past years many organizations have come together to face this problem, with

dozens of groups and countries passing legislation to work towards a goal of reducing plastics and pollutants in our water, especially with the help of Nuclear Technology.



Further Research and Sources

Recommended that you use these in your position paper or if you wish you may find other, reliable, sources.

<https://iiaglobal.com/iaa-news/nutec-plastics-a-nuclear-solution-to-plastic-pollution/>

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/nutec-plastics-using-nuclear-technologies-to-address-plastic-pollution>

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/nutec-plastics-using-nuclear-technologies-to-address-plastic-pollution>

<https://ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/topics/plastics/overview>

<https://ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/towards-a-un-treaty-on-plastic-pollution>

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/iaea-presents-nuclear-solutions-for-plastic-pollution-and-carbon-dioxide-removal-at-un-forum>

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/new-crp-recycling-of-polymer-waste-for-structural-and-non-structural-materials-by-using-ionizing-radiation-f23036>

https://www.iaea.org/sites/default/files/21/08/nutec_rt_asiapacific.pdf

Questions To Consider:

- How expensive is it to provide money for de-pollution?
- How can de-pollution be measured?

Bloc Positions:

(These Position are general guidelines for your research and just a place to start, make sure to verify and use sources to find your positions)

Argentina

Attends IAEA meetings, and looks favorably upon Nuclear Tech to assist in de-pollution.

Australia

Attends IAEA meetings, and looks favorably upon Nuclear Tech to assist in de-pollution.

Belgium

Attends IAEA meetings, and looks favorably upon Nuclear Tech to assist in de-pollution.

Brazil

Looks favorably upon Nuclear Tech to assist in de-pollution.

Canada

Looks favorably upon Nuclear Tech to assist in de-pollution.

Republic of China

While China leads much of the world in plastic contaminants and pollution they look favorably upon Nuclear Tech and are both currently and in the future looking to cut down on plastic waste and grow sustainability.

Germany

Germany has attended IAEA panels and is quite good at recycling and keeping their production of pollutants low. They look favorably upon Nuclear Tech to assist in de-pollution.

Finland

Attends IAEA meetings, and looks favorably upon Nuclear Tech to assist in de-pollution.

France

Attends IAEA meetings, and looks favorably upon Nuclear Tech to assist in de-pollution.

India

Attends IAEA meetings, and looks favorably upon Nuclear Tech to assist in de-pollution.

Indonesia

Attends IAEA meetings, and looks favorably upon Nuclear Tech to assist in de-pollution.

Japan

Is a member state of the IAEA and a leader of the field, has hosted and is innovating new technologies to combat plastic pollution, and is very much favorable towards Nuclear Tech to assist in de-pollution.

Mexico

Looks favorably upon Nuclear Tech to assist in de-pollution.

Morocco

Looks neutrally/favorably upon Nuclear Technology.

New Zealand

Looks favorably upon Nuclear Technology

Nigeria

Looks favorably upon Nuclear Tech to assist in de-pollution.

North Korea

Is neutral.

Pakistan

Attends IAEA meetings, and looks favorably upon Nuclear Tech to assist in de-pollution.

The Philippines

Attends IAEA meetings, and looks favorably upon Nuclear Tech to assist in de-pollution.

Russia

Attends IAEA meetings, and looks favorably upon Nuclear Tech to assist in de-pollution.

South Korea

Attends IAEA meetings, and looks favorably upon Nuclear Tech to assist in de-pollution.

Spain

Looks favorably/ neutrally upon Nuclear Tech to assist in de-pollution.

Switzerland

Attends IAEA meetings, and looks favorably upon Nuclear Tech to assist in de-pollution.

Ukraine

Looks favorably upon Nuclear Tech to assist in de-pollution.

United States of America

Attends IAEA meetings, and looks favorably upon Nuclear Tech to assist in de-pollution.

Vietnam

Attends IAEA meetings, and looks favorably upon Nuclear Tech to assist in de-pollution.

Topic 2: The Decommissioning of Nuclear Weapons

General Information

Nuclear Technology is a relatively new industry that many countries are trying to figure out how to correctly dive into. However, with the Chernobyl nuclear accident in Ukraine and the recent Fukushima nuclear disaster in Japan, many question whether nuclear technology can be trusted and if the pros outweigh the cons. In line with the recent news of the conflict between Ukraine and Russia, and even going back just a few years ago to the tension between the US and North Korea, the benefits of nuclear weapons have come into question.

There are many benefits to nuclear weapons, in that countries can use them for protection, like North Korea. Additionally, countries can use their nuclear weapons as a backup option in case of war, like the United States. Although, many countries fear nuclear weapons, and wish for the non-proliferation and disarmament of nuclear weapons to create a safer, more peaceful world.

In this general assembly, you will be diving into their country's stance on nuclear weapons, their history with nuclear technology, and deciding whether or not nuclear weapons should be disarmed.

Heading into this topic, some background knowledge is going to make your research much easier. There are a lot of treaties that deal with Nuclear Weapons and it can be crucial to a country's position to look at whether they have signed the treaty in agreement or not. Some examples are: The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Limited Test Ban Treaty, and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. There are, also, many groups and alliances that can be crucial to know about coming into the conference.

Brief definitions of some of these treaties, and websites where you can find more information about them, can be found below.

NPT - The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

A treaty “to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament.” ~UN

LTBT - The Limited Test Ban Treaty

A treaty that “prohibits nuclear weapons tests "or any other nuclear explosion" in the atmosphere, in outer space, and under water. While not banning tests underground, the Treaty does prohibit nuclear explosions...” ~ US Department of State

CTBT - The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty

An updated version of the LTBT. More information can be found on the website of the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs

TNPW - The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (works with the NPT)

A treaty that lists many measures that countries can take to disarm their nuclear weapons, and countries that sign the treaty agree with the prohibition of nuclear weapons. More information can be found _____

NSG - Nuclear Suppliers Group

A group that seeks to aid in the decrease of nuclear weapons through managing the exports and transportation of nuclear weapons. More information can be found on the Nuclear Suppliers Group website.

Questions To Consider:

- Do third-world countries need nuclear weapons to protect themselves?
- How difficult is it to disarm a nuclear weapon?

Bloc Positions:

Argentina

Claims to not own, possess, or control any nuclear weapons, but refused to join the NPT

Australia

In the past, has voted against a resolution to ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, but recently abstained on the resolution.

Belgium

Did not sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Brazil

Joined the NPT as a non-nuclear weapon state.

Canada

Joined the NPT as a non-nuclear weapon state to refrain from pursuing Nuclear Weapons.

Republic of China

Has scrutinized the NPT in the past, but eventually joined it. Since joining the NPT, they have praised it.

Has not explicitly stated whether or not they will get rid of all nuclear weapons.

Germany

Joined the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative.

Has Nuclear Weapons as part of alliance defense agreements.

Finland

Recently voted against a resolution to ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

France

Joined the NPT as a non-nuclear weapon state in hopes to disarm nuclear weapons.

India

Did not join the NPT, but have nuclear weapons, along with Pakistan.

Indonesia

Joined the NPT as a non-nuclear weapon state.

Japan

Has strict nuclear policies. Actively trying to strengthen the NPT regime.

Mexico

Claims to not own, possess, or control any nuclear weapons.

Morocco

Joined the NPT as a non-nuclear weapon state.

New Zealand

Joined the NPT as a non-nuclear weapon state.

Nigeria

Claims to not own, possess, or control any nuclear weapons.

North Korea

Withdrew themselves from the NPT to keep their nuclear weapons.

Pakistan

Has nuclear weapons and has publicly shown this but not a part of the NPT.

The Philippines

Claims to not own, possess, or control any nuclear weapons.

Russia

Possess Nuclear Weapons.

South Korea

Has signed the NPT and is a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group.

Spain

Has endorsed statements of the use of nuclear weapons.

Switzerland

Canceling their plans to use nuclear technology because of safety concerns.

Ukraine

Joined the NPT as a non-nuclear weapon state.

United States of America

Allowed to have nuclear weapons, even though they are signed to the NPT. In recent years, their stance on nuclear weapons has shifted.

Vietnam

Signed the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and claims to not own, possess, or control any nuclear weapons.

Further Research:

Below are the sources we used to gather material for this topic of our background guide. I recommend starting your research at these sources and expanding from them.

The United Nations website

- The IAEA site
- The Office of Disarmament Affairs

Nuclear Suppliers Group website

United States Department of State

Additionally, nti.org and icanw.org are both great places to begin research on your country's position on nuclear warfare. They provide summaries of the country's position and should be used as a jumping off point for the further research that you will need for your position paper. It will be impossible to write the position paper from ONLY these two websites.

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