



# **BCHIGH MODEL UNITED NATIONS**

## *United Nations Security Council*

Background Guide

Chair Lucky Patel, Chair & Co-Chair Max Kelley  
Chair Liam Heffernan & Co-Chair Vedant Agarwal





## BCHIGH MUN Conference XXXI Attendees,

Welcome all of you great people! I, Lucky Patel, am honored to serve as the chair for this wonderful occasion. In addition to my excellent friend Max Kelly, who will serve as the committee's fantastic and wholesome co-chair, I am a senior at Boston College High School and will be its chairman. I'm beyond thrilled to have the opportunity to do so, as this is only my second year participating in MUN and my second time serving as a committee chair. All parties involved will learn from it! After a year with the club, I came to the conclusion that I truly loved what we did as a team and wanted to get more engaged. I have since been elected to the position of Director of External Affairs and have participated in a huge number of conferences. Stepping outside of my comfort zone has helped me advance steadily in MUN; I'm a very friendly person, so don't be hesitant to write to me with any inquiries regarding your roles and/or briefing papers! I wish you the best of luck throughout your time at Boston College High School and I hope to see you all in committee!

Sincerely,

Lucky Patel, Chair of the Security Council

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Dear Delegates,

Greetings and welcome to the 31st BCHigh Model UN conference! My name is Max Kelly and I'm a junior at Boston College High School. I'm excited about the opportunity to co-chair this committee with Lucky. In my first year, I participated in Model UN in the hopes that it would help me develop my public speaking abilities. Even though I'm still getting the hang of MUN, I have really liked taking part in discussions at several conferences. I've always been fascinated by discussion, so Model UN is the perfect club for me. I'm looking forward to working with a great committee, and I aspire to make your time at Boston College High School as enjoyable as I can! If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at this address.

Sincerely,

Max Kelly, Co-chair of the Security Council Committee

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**Topic Background:***Council History and Purpose:*

The Security Council, like the UN as a whole, was established following World War II to overcome the League of Nations' shortcomings in upholding international peace. The Security Council convened in London for the first time on January 17, 1946, and temporary rules of conduct were approved. One of the six main UN bodies, the UN Security Council is in charge of maintaining global peace and security, suggesting new UN members be admitted to the General Assembly, and approving any amendments to the UN Charter. At Church House in Westminster, London, on January 17, 1946, the Security Council had its inaugural meeting. The Security Council has had a permanent home at the UN headquarters in New York City since its inaugural meeting. Additionally, it traveled far, conducting meetings in other locations such as Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in 1972; Panama City, Panama; and Geneva, Switzerland, in 1990. So that the Security Council may convene whenever necessary, there must always be a representative from each of its members on-site at the UN headquarters. China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States are the five sovereign states that the UN Charter of 1945 assigns a permanent seat on the UN Security Council. They are often referred to as the Permanent Five, the Big Five, or the P5. The permanent members are all nuclear-armed states that were allies in World War II and emerged victorious from that conflict. Each of them has the ability to block the approval of any "substantive" draft Council resolution, regardless of the degree of international support it receives. The General Assembly elects the other 10 UN Security Council members, making a total of 15 UN member nations.



### *Doomsday Clock:*

The Doomsday Clock is a symbolic representation of how close humanity is to a global catastrophe. It was created in 1947 by the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, a group of experts in science and international security, to express the danger posed by nuclear weapons. The Clock has since been updated to reflect other threats to humanity such as climate change, biotechnology, and cyber threats. The Clock is represented as a timepiece with its hands set to a certain number of minutes to midnight, where midnight represents global catastrophe. The closer the clock is to midnight, the closer humanity is to a global catastrophe, and conversely, the further away from midnight, the safer the world is deemed to be. Over the years, the clock has been set forward and backward to reflect changing global events and conditions. Currently, the clock is set at 100 seconds to midnight, the closest it has ever been, reflecting the increasing danger posed by multiple global threats, including the continued proliferation of nuclear weapons and the ongoing global climate crisis.

### *Nuclear Tensions with NATO:*

Nuclear tensions within the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) have been a central issue since the formation of the alliance in 1949. NATO is a political and military alliance of North American and European countries formed for the purpose of collective defense against potential threats from the Soviet Union during the Cold War. One of the key components of NATO's defense strategy was the possession and potential use of nuclear weapons.



In the early years of NATO, the US was the only country in the alliance with nuclear weapons, and they played a central role in the organization's defense strategy. However, as the threat from the Soviet Union grew, other NATO countries became more concerned about their own security and the possibility of a nuclear attack. This led to the creation of the NATO Nuclear Planning Group in the late 1950s, which was tasked with coordinating the alliance's nuclear defense strategy.

One of the major sources of nuclear tensions within NATO was the deployment of intermediate-range nuclear missiles in Europe in the 1980s. The US had deployed Pershing II and cruise missiles in Europe as a deterrent against the Soviet Union, but this move was met with widespread protests from anti-nuclear activists and some European governments. This led to a series of negotiations between NATO and the Soviet Union, which eventually resulted in the signing of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty in 1987, which banned intermediate-range nuclear missiles from Europe.

Another source of nuclear tensions within NATO was the debate over the role of nuclear weapons in the alliance's defense strategy. Some NATO members, particularly Germany, have called for the alliance to reduce its reliance on nuclear weapons and move towards a more conventional defense strategy. However, others, particularly the US and the UK, have argued that nuclear weapons are still necessary to deter potential aggressors and ensure the security of the alliance.



In recent years, the rise of new nuclear powers, such as North Korea and Iran, and the ongoing threat of terrorism, have added new dimensions to NATO's nuclear tensions. The alliance has been grappling with how to address these threats while maintaining its commitment to disarmament and non-proliferation. Additionally, the ongoing modernization of existing nuclear arsenals by some NATO members has led to concerns about the potential for an arms race and a destabilizing effect on global security.

In conclusion, nuclear tensions within NATO have been a major issue throughout the alliance's history, driven by concerns about security, the threat from potential aggressors, and the role of nuclear weapons in the alliance's defense strategy. These tensions have led to debates, negotiations, and policy changes over the years, and will likely continue to be a central issue for NATO in the future.

#### *Nuclear Threats:*

Nuclear tensions in Russia have been a concern for the international community for many years. The country has a long history of developing and possessing nuclear weapons, and its actions and policies have often been met with concern and criticism from the rest of the world.

One of the biggest sources of nuclear tensions in Russia is its continued development and expansion of its nuclear arsenal. Despite being a signatory of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Russia has been accused of violating its obligations under the treaty by



developing new and advanced nuclear weapons systems. This has raised concerns about a new nuclear arms race, as other countries look to develop their own nuclear capabilities in response to Russia's actions.

Another major source of tension is Russia's aggressive foreign policy and military interventions in other countries. The country has been involved in conflicts in Ukraine, Georgia, and Syria, and has been accused of using its military to support separatist movements and destabilize other countries. This has led to increased tensions with the West, as well as concerns about the potential for nuclear escalation in these conflicts.

Additionally, Russia's domestic political situation has contributed to nuclear tensions. The country is governed by an authoritarian regime, and its leaders have been accused of suppressing political opposition and violating human rights. This has led to widespread concerns about the stability and reliability of the Russian government, and the potential for nuclear weapons to fall into the wrong hands.

There are several steps that can be taken to reduce nuclear tensions in Russia. Firstly, the international community can engage in dialogue with the Russian government to encourage them to reduce their nuclear arsenal and comply with their obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Secondly, diplomatic efforts can be made to resolve conflicts in Ukraine, Georgia, and Syria, and to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons to other countries in the region. Finally, the international community can support civil society



organizations in Russia that are working to promote human rights, democracy, and the rule of law.

The recent invasion of Ukraine by Russia has led the doomsday clock to be moved up to 90 seconds till' midnight. This is the closest the clock has ever been to 0 (mass nuclear destruction) ever.

In conclusion, nuclear tensions in Russia remain a major concern for the international community, and require a comprehensive and collaborative approach to address. By engaging in dialogue, resolving conflicts, and supporting civil society, the international community can help to reduce the risk of nuclear escalation and promote peace and stability in the region.

Questions to consider:

- Will the world move closer to nuclear war?
- How can your country stop this creeping countdown towards nuclear conflict?
- What are the alternatives that an international coalition might consider to avoid this?

Positions:

- Veto Power
  - United States
  - China
  - Soviet Union/Russia



- France
- United Kingdom
- Members
  - Brazil
  - Japan
  - United Arab Emirates
  - Switzerland
  - India
  - North Korea
  - Ghana
  - Malta
  - Mozambique
  - Gabon
  - Ecuador
  - Albania
  - Egypt
  - Pakistan
  - Israel