



INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Lake Erie International Model United Nations

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CHAIRING STYLE

Welcome to the International Atomic Energy Agency! Our organization has a long-standing history of promoting peaceful nuclear development within United Nations member states, and your participation in this committee makes you a part of that noble goal. This letter will provide you with a brief introduction to the committee and give you a starting point from which you can develop your research. Good luck, and I look forward to working with each of you.

Previous delegates have described my chairing style as "stern, yet flexible". I feel that this is a fairly accurate description. I believe that the role of the chair is to facilitate the conduct of the body, not to control it. As such, *you* will control the direction of debate through your knowledge and use of parliamentary procedure. I also stand behind the educational purpose of this conference, and I will limit my interference to those instances when it is beneficial to the committee. I will interject only when specifically asked to do so by the body; when the committee is beginning to lose control or focus; or when a serious procedural error has been made.

As a chair, I am an evaluator of delegate performance as well as a facilitator of debate. It is imperative, therefore, that I focus on evaluating delegate performance rather than guiding it. I cannot and will not answer specific questions regarding individual topics, countries' policies, or parliamentary procedure. If a question is posed, it must be done using proper parliamentary procedure, and I will provide an answer only to the committee as a whole - not to any individual delegate or delegation.

My expectation is that all delegates will understand how to use the basic functions of parliamentary procedure through study and practice. In addition, proper conduct and dress (Western business attire) in accordance with the LEIMUN Handbook are essential to ensuring the successful function of our committee. Use this letter as a guide in your preparation, but remember that it should not function as your sole resource and prepare accordingly.

Though I do not expect you to become experts on the many activities of the IAEA, I do expect you to be able to thoroughly address the topics listed below and to appropriately represent your delegation.

For more information such as LEIMUN Rules of Procedure, the Conference Handbook or aids for research please visit www.LEIMUN.com. Looking forward to seeing you all in March!

THE TOPICS

The following topics are those which you should absolutely be prepared to debate; however, you would also benefit from looking into additional topics should you close debate on these three before the end of conference.

Radioactive Waste Management

The treatment and disposal of radioactive waste is one of the IAEA's most crucial responsibilities, one that affects the health and safety of civilians across the globe due to the volatility of the materials involved. The IAEA established the *Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management*¹ on 18 June 2001 after nearly four years of being open for signature.

The purpose of the Convention is to govern the transfer and management of both civilian and military nuclear waste within the framework of "The Principles of Radioactive Waste Management", particularly "to ensure that individuals, society and the environment are adequately protected against radiological and other hazards."²

Article 32 of the Joint Convention requires signatories to submit national reports outlining their practices relating to spent fuel and radioactive waste management, which are then reviewed at a meeting held no less frequently than every three years, pursuant to Article 30 of the Convention. (*Joint Convention*, pp. 27-29) Reports from each meeting are published on the IAEA's Web site for public consumption; the latest meeting was held between 11 and 20 May 2009 at IAEA Headquarters.

Consider the following:

- Has your state acceded to, signed and/or ratified the Convention? Are there limits to your state's accession?
- What was the status of your state's latest national report?
- How can the IAEA effectively update waste management processes, if at all, and ensure compliance?

The preceding points are some, though certainly not all, of the factors that an effective recommendation will address.

Nuclear Security and Means to Combat Nuclear Terrorism

The availability of nuclear materials and the shift of military combat to fourth-generation warfare³ makes it more important than ever to monitor the appropriate use of nuclear energy and to install safeguards against nuclear terrorism. The IAEA has engaged in activities related to nuclear security since the 1970s; currently, the primary instrument for responding to nuclear

¹ *Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management*, <http://www.iaea.org/Publications/Documents/Infocircs/1997/infocirc546.pdf>

² IAEA, "Joint Convention background". <http://www-ns.iaea.org/conventions/jointconv-background.htm>

³ For more information on 4GW see Corn, Tony, "World War IV As Fourth-Generation Warfare". *PolicyReview* January 2006. <http://www.hoover.org/publications/policyreview/4868381.html>

security needs is the *Nuclear Security Plan for 2006-2009*⁴, entered into force in September 2005.

Nuclear security addresses three areas: needs assessment and information sharing with other international bodies; prevention of “malicious acts” through cooperation and physical protection of nuclear materials; and the detection of and response to nuclear theft and trafficking attempts.⁵

Through the course of your debate, consider:

- How effective has the NSP 2006-09 been? Should it be renewed for 2010?
- New approaches to ensuring nuclear security
- Evaluating current measures for physical protection and accountability of nuclear resources

Developing Multilateral Approaches to the Fuel Cycle

Nuclear energy is increasingly looked to as a clean and effective means of powering our member states. However, with the enrichment of nuclear resources for safe purposes comes the concern that states will take advantage of the opportunity to explore the creation of nuclear weapons in violation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, effective 5 March 1970,⁶ to which 189 member states have acceded. As stated in a working paper submitted by Austria in 2007: “Every expansion in the use of nuclear power leads to the spread of fuel cycle services, thus increasing the risk of misuse for non-peaceful purposes, whether by States or non-State actors.”⁷

Establishing a comprehensive approach to the refinement, use, and disposal of nuclear fuel – the fuel cycle – is crucial to ensuring the safe and secure development of nuclear power across the globe. Efforts to this effect include discussion regarding creation of a multinational fuel bank, to be controlled by the IAEA and meant to distribute fuel on a non-partisan basis to states wishing to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Several states have committed funds to the proposed fuel bank,⁸ as of March 2009, a ten million USD contribution by Kuwait sent contribution numbers over the international benchmark for the fuel bank’s creation.

Multilateral cooperation is essential to the success of the IAEA’s endeavors. This is apparent considering ongoing nuclear testing in Iran,⁹ which continues to be of primary interest considering Iran’s varying responses to IAEA investigation attempts. However, every signatory to the NPT is afforded the right to pursue nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, in accordance with the provisions set forth in that treaty. An expert group report – “Multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle”¹⁰ – discusses the options available for extending access to nuclear energy while maintaining the necessary safeguards to prevent its misuse, as well as other

⁴ *IAEA Nuclear Security Plan for 2006-2009*, <http://www.iaea.org/About/Policy/GC/GC49/Documents/gc49-17.pdf>

⁵ “IAEA Nuclear Security Plan for 2006-2009”. *International Atomic Energy Agency*. http://www-ns.iaea.org/security/NSP_2009.htm

⁶ *Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty*, 22 April 1970. <http://www.iaea.org/Publications/Documents/Infcircs/Others/infcirc140.pdf>

⁷ “Multilateralisation of the Nuclear Fuel Cycle: Increasing Transparency and Sustainable Security.” *IAEA*, 2007. <http://www.iaea.org/Publications/Documents/Infcircs/2009/infcirc755.pdf>

⁸ For articles, see “News Center: In Focus: Nuclear Fuel Cycle”, <http://www.iaea.org/NewsCenter/Focus/FuelCycle/index.shtml>

⁹ “In Focus: IAEA and Iran”. *IAEA*. <http://www.iaea.org/NewsCenter/Focus/laealran/index.shtml>

¹⁰ 22 February 2005. <http://www.iaea.org/Publications/Documents/Infcircs/2005/infcirc640.pdf>

issues inherent to the use of nuclear energy including those mentioned in the previous topics.

A successful recommendation will address the following:

- Creation of a nuclear fuel bank using states' contributions
- Ensuring compliance with multilateral attempts to regulate the fuel cycle
- Non-partisan approaches to regulation and fuel disbursement

Additional Resources

The vast majority of your research may be completed using the IAEA Web site (www.iaea.org) and the U.N.'s Web site (www.un.org); however, there are other resources available which will be of assistance as you prepare for conference:

- Your country's government Web site
- "In Depth: The Nuclear Fuel Cycle" (*BBC*)
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/spl/hi/sci_nat/05/nuclear_fuel/html/enrichment.stm
- The Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (*U.S. Department of State*)
<http://www.state.gov/t/isn/c18406.htm>
- "The Nuclear Fuel Cycle: Education" (*World Nuclear Association*) <http://www.world-nuclear.org/education/nfc.htm>
- Issue Brief: "Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism" (*Stimson*)
<http://www.stimson.org/MAB/?SN=CT200705181262>
- "Radioactive Waste Management" (*Nuclear Energy Agency*)
<http://www.nea.fr/html/rwm/>
- "NRC: Radioactive Waste" (*U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission*)
<http://www.nrc.gov/waste.html>

The above listed links are a guideline, by no means an exhaustive list, of the available resources you may find. Also pay attention to current print publications and news outlets, as they may provide valuable information as conference approaches.