



Iowa High School Model United Nations  
Disarmament Committee  
Increasing Accountability in Weapons Inspections  
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## **Background**

The development and proliferation of biological, chemical, and nuclear weapons has the potential to increase tensions and compromise safety of member nations and their citizens; the Security Council has "declared the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction a threat to international peace and security (S/23500)." In response to alarming increases in the production of such Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs), the United Nations established the International Atomic Energy Agency in 1957. In subsequent years, considerable advances have been made to reduce stockpiles, disarm nations, and limit testing. Nevertheless, certain nations have sought to develop such weapons in order to exert greater geopolitical influence. In the 1980s, the Republic of Iraq acquired and used WMDs to quell domestic ethnic tensions. By the end of the Persian Gulf War in 1991, it had amassed large stockpiles of biological weapons and sought thermonuclear weapons capabilities.

## **Past UN Actions**

Security Council Resolution 687 in April 1991 mandated that Iraq disarm its WMDs. The United Nations Security Council created The United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) to oversee the disarmament and provide an independent verification of Iraqi compliance. However, periods of non-cooperation from Iraqi leaders impeded efforts in subsequent years. As a result, the Security Council created the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC). UNMOVIC was granted broader authority for more stringent inspections. Retrospective analysis has revealed that the inspections process was largely successful in its goal of disarmament.

## **Possible Solutions**

The paramount importance of disarmament and non-proliferation along with the generally successful implementation of inspections in Iraq suggest that similar measures can and should be utilized if warranted in future situations. Today, countries such as the Islamic Republic of Iran and the People's Republic of Korea pose potential threats of WMD proliferation. The United Nations needs to create a stringent yet dynamic protocol, based on UNMOVIC, that will provide broad and effective authority for inspectors to successfully disarm suspect nations. In addition, strict consequences must be imposed upon violators to serve as a deterrent to further proliferation in other member nations.

## **Questions to Consider**

- Does your country have a history of arms proliferation?
- Do hostile relations with neighboring countries threaten your national security?
- How would your country react to a neighbor's WMD proliferation in response to a real or imagined threat from you?
- What sort of regulations and procedures are used domestically to inspect and maintain arms stockpiles (including conventional arms stocks)?

- Could you provide a unique way to address the issue by amalgamating the responses from the first four questions?

### References

[http://www.the-hutton-inquiry.org.uk/content/cab/cab\\_3\\_0082to0095.pdf](http://www.the-hutton-inquiry.org.uk/content/cab/cab_3_0082to0095.pdf)

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[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iran\\_and\\_weapons\\_of\\_mass\\_destruction](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iran_and_weapons_of_mass_destruction)

[www.iaea.org](http://www.iaea.org)

Security Council resolutions: 687, 1284, 1483

