

General Assembly Fourth Committee

A Thematic Review on Nuclear Testing

Since nuclear weapon testing began in 1945, over 2000 tests have taken place. The main focus on the topic of nuclear testing today is strictly on achieving a nuclear free world. In December of 2009, the 64th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared the 29th of August the International Day against Nuclear Tests by unanimously adopting resolution 64/35. This resolution calls for increasing awareness and education “about the effects of nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions and the need for their cessation as one of the means of achieving the goal of a nuclear-weapon free world”.¹ It is widely believed in the UN community that nuclear disarmament and the total elimination of nuclear weapons are the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of nuclear weapons.² This ideal led to the UNGA designating the 26th of September the “International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear weapons”.³ While using specific methods like creating International Days is a great mechanism for spreading awareness, the main mechanism for eradicating nuclear weapons testing is the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.⁴ One focus of this treaty is monitoring systems. Advances in technology over the years have helped with monitoring, as well as the creation of the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the CTBT Organisation (CTBTO) Preparatory Commission. When it comes to the history of Nuclear Tests and the goals to achieve a nuclear free world, everyone has a part to play in ensuring our future and the safety we all need to thrive.

Anticipating 20 Years of the Responsibility to Protect: Its Implementation and Efficacy

Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Under Secretary General for Peace Operations, has said UN Peacekeeping operations are facing increasing challenges through geopolitical changes, growing regional tensions and climate vulnerabilities⁵. Fatalities for peacekeepers have doubled from 12 in 2020 to 25 in 2021. During the GA47 seventy seventh session, 20th meeting, Member States discussed differing perspectives regarding the effectiveness of peacekeeping missions.⁶ Mali discussed the situation in their country has considerably worsened over the decade since peacekeeping operations have been implemented, Cyprus believes an effective ceasefire has been maintained since 1964, while Ukraine has had to withdraw their UN Peacekeepers for the purpose of the war against the Russian Federation. In March 2021 the Action for Peacekeeping + was launched with seven priorities to bring strategic integration and communication, accountability to and of peacekeepers, as well as cooperation within host member states for the safety of peacekeepers and citizens.⁷

¹ <https://www.un.org/en/observances/end-nuclear-tests-day>

² <https://www.un.org/en/observances/end-nuclear-tests-day>

³ <https://www.un.org/en/observances/end-nuclear-tests-day>

⁴ <https://www.ctbto.org/our-mission/the-treaty>

⁵ <https://press.un.org/en/2022/gaspd764.doc.htm>

⁶ <https://press.un.org/en/2022/gaspd766.doc.htm>

⁷ <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/action-peacekeeping>