



US SENATE

Welcome senators,

My name is Luna Glück Mora, and I am delighted to be your Director in the United States Senate. I am 15 years old and currently a junior in high school at the International American School of Cancun. Outside of Model United Nations, I enjoy going to the beach, practicing aerial silks, and spending time with my loved ones. While I am still exploring my academic interests, I hope to pursue a future career in a mathematics-related field.

This conference marks my third MUN experience, and my first time participating as a director. I have previously served as a delegate. The first time I participated was in CancunMun 2024 in UNODC, and following in CancunMun 2025 in WHO, where I developed skills in debate, collaboration, and critical thinking. I am especially excited to take part in the U.S Senate, which is a committee where we will discuss topics regarding the United States of America.

As your director I expect my senators to be respectful and well-mannered, actively be participating through the conference and as well as to come prepared and ready. Please remember to research thoroughly beyond the background guide, as it should not be your only source of information. I am confident that I will do my best as director of the U.S. Senate. If you have any doubts, please do not hesitate to contact me at luna.gluck@ciac.edu.mx. Good luck with your preparation, and I look forward to seeing you soon, Senators!

Luna Glück Mora, Director
United States Senate

Welcome senators,

My name is Analucía González Garza, and I am delighted to be your moderator in the United States Senate. I am 15 years old and currently a sophomore in high school at the International American School of Cancun. Outside of Model United Nations, I enjoy practicing volleyball, cooking, and I love traveling. While I am still exploring my academic interests, I hope to pursue a future career in a science-related field.

This conference marks my second MUN experience, and my first time participating as a moderator. I have previously served as a page. The first time I participated was in CancunMun 2025 in the Senado de México, where I developed skills in communication and collaboration. I am eager to participate in the U.S. Senate committee, where we will engage in thoughtful discussion and analysis of key issues affecting the United States.

As your moderator, I'm looking for everyone to show good conduct, stay involved throughout the conference, and arrive ready to take part. Come in prepared to speak, collaborate, and support productive discussion within the committee. Make sure you've done solid research using more than just the background guide, since it's only meant to give you a basic overview and shouldn't be your only source. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at analucia.gonzalez@ciac.edu.mx. Good luck with your preparation, and I'm glad I'll be meeting you all soon!

Analucía González Garza, Moderator
United States Senate



COMMITTEE MISSION

The United States Senate works as the upper chamber of Congress; it is composed of 100 senators, with two representatives from each state. The Senate is mainly responsible for drafting and passing legislation, ratifying treaties, and confirming presidential appointments. Doing this works through committees, hearings, and legislative proposals, the senators address the main issues affecting the United States. The Senate has a role in shaping the United States future through its work, and it has an impact on the people who live in the United States, by its crucial role in shaping and helping grow the United States.



Topic A: Federal Firearm Regulation and the Interpretation of the Second Amendment

Introduction:

Since 1791, federal firearm regulation in the United States has remained one of the most controversial issues in United States politics. The Second Amendment guarantees the right of citizens to be able to keep and bear arms, but the interpretation of this right has been used in different ways over time. While some Americans believe that being able to own a firearm is a basic right, some argue that we need to establish stronger federal regulations to reduce violence and ensure the safety of citizens.

Gun violence is continuing to affect communities, but mostly in urban areas where firearm crimes are more common. Incidents like mass shootings in schools, offices, and public spaces have increased the worry about being able to access firearms and questioned the effectiveness of the current laws. At the same time, lots of rural communities emphasize the need for gun ownership as part of their cultural practices, such as hunting and personal defense. These differences between communities have contributed to the political divisions regarding the topic of how firearms policies should be regulated and implemented at the federal level.

Efforts by Congress to address firearm regulation have been minor due to a divide between opposing political parties and strong organizations putting pressure, such as the National Rifle Association. While some laws have expanded background checks and funded mental health initiatives, people argue that these actions fail to completely address the issue and its causes of gun violence or regulate certain types of firearms. As a result, the debate over federal firearm regulation centers on how Congress can balance constitutional rights protected by the Second Amendment with the government's responsibility to promote public safety in modern United States society.



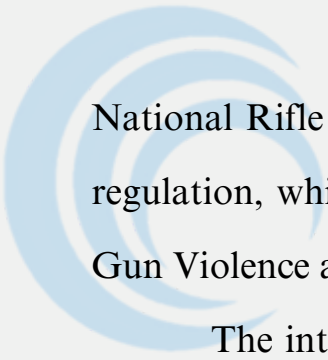
History:

The debate over firearm regulation in the United States began with the Second Amendment to the Constitution in 1791 as a part of the United States Bill of Rights. The Amendment states, “A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed” When the amendment was created, it was associated with the end of well-regulated militias to defend the young nation. Firearms were considered crucial for defense.

At the start of the 20th century, rising crime and the spread of organized crime during Prohibition, a crime where there was a ban on alcoholic beverages, in the United States, led the federal government to consider sturdier regulations. Criminal organizations used powerful firearms, increasing the worry for public safety. To solve this issue, Congress passed the National Firearms Act of 1934, which imposed a tax on the making and the transfer of firearms. This act marked a turning point by establishing the federal government's authority to regulate firearms.

Firearm regulation increased more in the 1960s because of political assassinations and rising public concerns. The assassinations of John F Kennedy, Robert F Kennedy, and Martin Luther King Jr. led Congress to pass the Gun Control Act of 1968. The law strengthens oversight of firearm sales by requiring licensing for gun dealers and restricting the purchase of firearms by some groups, like criminals and people with severe mental illnesses. This law also limited the importation of some firearms that were considered too dangerous.

An important response to gun violence was the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act in 1993. Which requires that background checks be made before a gun is bought from a licensed dealer, manufacturer, or importer. This act established the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, which is what the FBI uses today. The people looked at this act as a step for the prevention of dangerous people obtaining guns, while some argued that it placed unnecessary restrictions. In the decades that followed, organizations like the



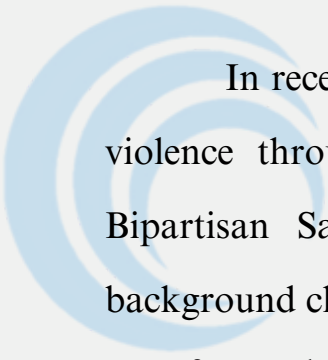
National Rifle Association grew into an influential group strictly opposing gun regulation, while at the same time, groups like the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence also grew to fight for stronger gun regulations.

The interpretation of the Second Amendment was strengthened through Supreme Court decisions. In the case *District of Columbia v. Heller* in 2008, the Supreme Court stated that the Second Amendment protects an individual's right to possess firearms for lawful purposes, such as self-defense. Despite these legal rulings, the debate over firearm regulation is continuing to increase because of incidents of gun violence and mass shootings. Many proposals have been shown in Congress to expand background checks, regulate, and strengthen safety measures. However, many of the proposals have failed, faced political opposition, and have struggled to pass through Congress.

Overall, efforts to regulate firearms in the United States have yielded indecisive results. Background check systems and licensing requirements have improved to oversee firearm sales. However, opposing political parties and interpretations of rights have limited the making of more federal regulations. As gun violence continues to be a public concern, the development of firearm regulation remains an ongoing debate.

Current Situation:

Today, firearm regulation is still one of the most debated political and social issues in the United States. While the Second Amendment protects the right to bear arms, some politicians continue to debate how the right is supposed to be interpreted and used in the communities. Rising concerns about gun violence and mass shootings have increased the pressure on lawmakers to consider new federal policies.



In recent years, we have seen several efforts by Congress to address gun violence through legislation. One of the most significant measures is the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, passed in 2022. This law expanded background checks for firearms buyers. Some people say that the legislation is a step forward for reducing gun violence. However, some argue that the law either does not go far enough in regulating or is an unnecessary restriction.

As well, debates over firearm regulation have increasingly taken place in the judicial system. Recent decisions by the Supreme Court continue to shape firearm laws. In the case *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen* in 2022, the court ruled that individuals have a constitutional right to carry firearms in public for self-defense under certain conditions.

Advocacy organizations also continue to play a major role in shaping the national government's gun policy. Groups such as the National Rifle Association advocate for the protection of gun ownership rights and oppose many federal firearm regulations. Meanwhile, organizations like the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence support stronger gun measures, including universal background checks and restrictions on firearms.

As the debate continues, lawmakers must consider a wide range of factors, including constitutional protections, public safety concerns, and political divisions. The challenge facing the United States Senate is to determine whether new federal legislation can effectively address gun violence while maintaining the constitutional rights guaranteed by the Second Amendment.





Points to consider:

- How should Congress interpret the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution in the context of modern firearm technology and rising gun violence?
- To what extent should the federal government regulate firearms versus leaving regulation to individual states?
- What policies could effectively reduce gun violence while still protecting constitutional rights?
- How can Congress address the role of mental health, illegal firearm trafficking, and social factors in gun violence?
- Should certain types of firearms or high-capacity magazines face federal restrictions?

Useful links:

https://constitution.congress.gov/browse/essay/amdt2-1/ALDE_00000408/

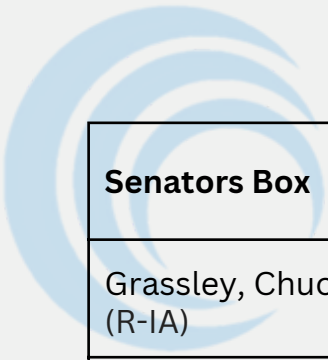
<https://time.com/5169210/us-gun-control-laws-history-timeline/>

<https://www.senate.gov/about/origins-foundations/idea-of-the-senate.htm>

<https://www.atf.gov/firearms>

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Second-Amendment>

<https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/IF11038>



Senators Box	
Grassley, Chuck (R-IA)	Schumer, Charles E. (D-NY)
Thune, John (R-SD)	Booker, Cory A. (D-NJ)
Capito, Shelley Moore (R-WV)	Ossoff, Jon (D-GA)
Barrasso, John (R-WY)	Schatz, Brian (D-HI)
Lankford, James (R-OK)	Durbin, Richard J. (D-IL)
Cotton, Tom (R-AR)	Warren, Elizabeth (D-MA)
Scott, Tim (R-SC)	Baldwin, Tammy (D-WI)
Cruz, Ted (R-TX)	Murphy, Christopher (D-CT)
Tillis, Thom (R-NC)	Klobuchar, Amy (D-MN)
Ashley Moody (R-FL)	Warner, Mark R. (D-VA)
McConnell, Mitch (R-KY)	Cortez Masto, Catherine (D-NV)
Paul, Rand (R-KY)	Adam Schiff (D-CA)
Graham, Lindsey (R-SC)	John Fetterman (D-PA)
Hawley, Josh (R-MO)	Padilla, Alex (D-CA)
Angus King (I-ME)	Sanders, Bernard (I-VT)



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- Terrorists’ Use of Emerging Technologies Poses Evolving Threat to International Peace, Stability, Acting UN Counter-Terrorism Chief Warns Security Council | UN Meetings*

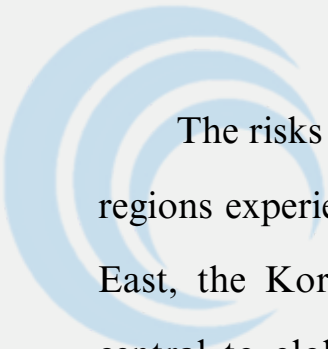


Topic B: Nuclear Proliferation Risks Posed by Emerging Regional Conflicts

Introduction

Nuclear proliferation poses a serious threat to global peace and security, especially as emerging regional conflicts increase tensions between states and raise the stakes for nations to consider nuclear weapons as deterrents. As geopolitical instability grows, some states view nuclear weapons as a way to strengthen their security or political influence. Nuclear proliferation refers to the spread of nuclear weapons, fissile material, and weapons-related nuclear technology to states that do not already possess them or are not recognized as nuclear-weapon states under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). This issue threatens international stability by increasing the number of actors capable of using extremely destructive weapons during times of political instability or conflict.

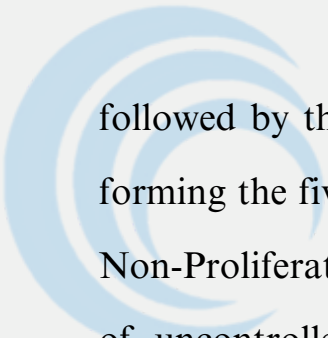
Nuclear proliferation, or the spread of nuclear-weapon capability, is widely perceived as one of the most pressing threats to international security due to the devastation that even a single nuclear weapon could cause. At least nine countries are believed to possess nuclear weapon stockpiles, and several of them, such as North Korea, have taken confrontational political positions and limited international inspections of their nuclear programs. Other countries, such as Iran, have faced international scrutiny due to concerns about their nuclear development activities. These situations raise fears not only of potential state-led attacks, but also of nuclear technology or materials falling into the hands of terrorist organizations or other non-state actors.



The risks associated with nuclear proliferation are particularly significant in regions experiencing heightened geopolitical tensions. Areas such as the Middle East, the Korean Peninsula in East Asia, and Eastern Europe have become central to global concerns about nuclear escalation and the safety of nuclear infrastructure. Ongoing conflicts and security rivalries in these regions may encourage some states to reconsider nuclear capabilities as a form of deterrence or political leverage. International organizations, such as the International Atomic Energy Agency, monitor nuclear programs and promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy, while the NPT seeks to limit the spread of nuclear weapons and promote disarmament efforts. However, challenges such as non-compliance, regional instability, and concerns over unsecured nuclear materials continue to test the effectiveness of these international frameworks. As regional conflicts evolve, addressing the risks of nuclear proliferation remains a critical responsibility for the international community and for the United Nations in order to prevent escalation and maintain global security.

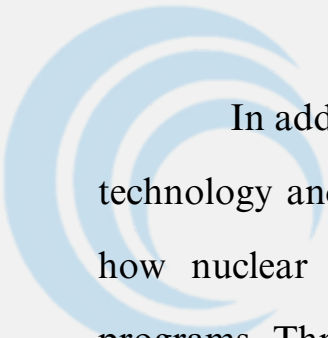
History

The origin of nuclear proliferation is deeply rooted in the Cold War tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union, which began shortly after the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 and drove an intense arms race that threatened global catastrophe. In 1939, a letter signed by Albert Einstein to President Franklin D. Roosevelt warned about the potential development of nuclear weapons, prompting the Manhattan Project, which produced the first atomic bombs dropped on Japan during World War II. Soon after, other states began pursuing their own nuclear capabilities to maintain strategic balance. In 1949, the Soviet Union tested its first nuclear weapon,



followed by the United Kingdom in 1952, France in 1960, and China in 1964, forming the five nuclear-weapon states later recognized under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). These developments raised fears of uncontrolled proliferation and led international efforts to limit nuclear weapons, especially as global stockpiles peaked at more than 70,000 warheads in the mid-1980.

Controlling nuclear proliferation has involved a complex web of national governments, intergovernmental organizations, and nongovernmental actors, each playing distinct yet overlapping roles since the Cold War era. Governments pioneered bilateral treaties such as the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) and later Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) agreements between the US and the Soviet Union, aimed at limiting and reducing nuclear arsenals. At the global level, the NPT, signed in 1968, binds 191 states to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons while promoting disarmament and peaceful nuclear technology. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have also played a role in shaping disarmament advocacy and public awareness. Organizations such as the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), the Federation of American Scientists, the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW), and Physicians for Social Responsibility have promoted awareness and pushed governments to pursue stronger disarmament measures. However challenges soon emerged, including India's 1974 "peaceful nuclear explosion", which revealed loopholes in the control of dual-use nuclear technology. Later developments further complicated non-proliferation efforts when India and Pakistan tested nuclear weapons in 1998 and North Korea withdrew from the NPT in 2003 before conducting its first nuclear test in 2006.



In addition, clandestine networks such as A.Q. Khan transferred nuclear technology and expertise to countries including Iran and Libya, demonstrating how nuclear materials and knowledge could spread beyond official state programs. Through the United Nations Security Council, the UN has enforced compliance with non-proliferation measures through sanctions and resolutions addressing nuclear threats, including Resolutions 1718 and 1874 in response to North Korea's tests and Resolution 1540 (2004), which requires all states to prevent non-state actors from acquiring nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons. Another important institution is the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), established in 1957 to verify that nuclear technology is used only for peaceful purposes through inspections and monitoring.

Measures to curb proliferation have produced both notable successes and continuing challenges, reflecting the tension between deterrence and disarmament. The NPT has significantly limited the number of recognized nuclear-weapon states and prevented many technologically capable countries from developing nuclear arsenals. Some countries have even dismantled their nuclear weapons programs voluntarily, such as South Africa, which ended its nuclear weapons program in 1991 before joining the NPT. Regional Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zones, including the Tlateloco Treaty in Latin America (1967) and the Treaty of Pelindaba in Africa (1996), have also contributed to limiting the spread of nuclear weapons across large regions. However, several challenges remain; nuclear-armed states still maintain approximately 12,000 warheads worldwide, and modernization programs continue in several countries. States outside the NPT like India, Pakistan, and Israel, maintain nuclear capabilities, while North Korea continues to expand its program despite international sanctions, illustrating the difficulties of enforcing global non-proliferation norms and emphasizes why nuclear proliferation remains a major issue for international peace and security.

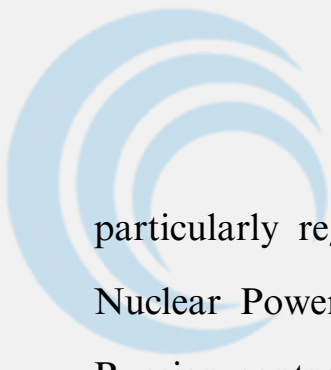


Current Situation

Nuclear proliferation risks from emerging regional conflicts remain as a major concern for international security as of 2026. Ongoing violations of non-proliferation commitments, growing geopolitical tensions, and divisions among major powers have made coordinated responses more difficult. These risks are particularly visible in regions such as the Middle East, the Korean Peninsula, and Eastern Europe, where nuclear programs, military conflicts, and political rivalries intersect. These factors increase uncertainty about the effectiveness of existing non-proliferation mechanisms and the ability of the international community to respond to emerging threats.

In June 2025, the US and Israel launched strikes on key Iranian sites, including Natanz, Fordow, Isfahan, and the underground Minzadehei facility during a major regional escalation. The attack severely damaged parts of the program but did not eliminate Iran's nuclear capabilities, and tensions between Iran and several Western states increased afterwards. Iran retaliated with missiles and reduced cooperation with inspectors from the IAEA cooperation, further complicating monitoring efforts. This has prompted Saudi Arabia to accelerate its civil nuclear expansion, announcing two power reactors and domestic uranium enrichment. Although officially intended for peaceful purposes, these developments have raised concerns that regional rivalries could encourage further nuclear development.

On the Korean Peninsula, North Korea conducted its second missile test of 2026 in late January, signaling continued advance in their nuclear and missile programs, defying UN Sanctions. These actions have increased concerns among neighboring states such as South Korea and Japan, where debates about national security and nuclear deterrence become more prominent. Another major concern involves the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine,



particularly regarding the safety of nuclear infrastructure. The Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant is the largest one in Europe and has remained under Russian control since 2022. Although the reactors are currently not operating, damage to powerlines and surrounding infrastructures raise concerns about nuclear safety and the possibility of an accident during active conflicts. The IAEA has maintained monitoring teams at the facility and continues working to ensure the plant remains stable despite the ongoing war.

Accountability for nonproliferation violations continues to become more difficult as divisions among major powers grow. Within the United Nations Security Council, Russia and China have opposed additional condemnations of North Korea's nuclear and missile programs, despite violations of SC resolutions such as 1718, 2270 and 2371, which restrict exports, financial activity, and labor transfers linked to its weapons program. These disagreements among the P5 member states weaken enforcement and undermine the credibility of the NPT, especially ahead of the Eleventh Review Conference in April 2026, where previous failures to reach a consensus document have already raised concerns about progress on disarmament. At the same time, measures such as safeguards inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency and sanctions monitoring by the SC remain active. However, ongoing tensions and regional rivalries continue to raise concerns about further nuclear proliferation and the need for stronger international cooperation.

This information is updated up to the 10th of March, we encourage all delegates to further investigate up to the date of the conference as this is an ongoing conflict.



Points to consider:

- How do regional conflicts increase incentives for nuclear weapons development?
- What responsibility do major nuclear powers have in preventing escalation?
- How can regional nuclear weapon free zones reduce tensions?
- What measures protect nuclear materials during active regional wars?
- What incentives could encourage states outside the NPT to participate in global non-proliferation efforts?
- What measures can reduce the risk of nuclear escalation during conventional wars?
- What steps can be taken to reduce existing nuclear arsenals while maintaining global security?

Useful links:

<https://www.ebsco.com/research-starters/military-history-and-science/nuclear-proliferation-overview>


<https://education.cfr.org/learn/timeline/history-nuclear-proliferation>

<https://carnegieendowment.org/russia-eurasia/research/2025/09/preventing-nuclear-anarchy-nuclear-proliferation-and-american-security>

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The main purpose of the United States Senate is to debate, amend, and pass federal legislation while representing the interests of the states.

