



*Students' Movement for International Organization (MSOI)*

*Youth branch of the Italian Society for International Organization (SIOI)*

*Italian Member of WFUNA-Youth*



### *What is the International Atomic Energy Agency?*

On 8 December, 1953, the US President Dwight D. Eisenhower in his speech "Atoms for peace" expressed his desire for a body to promote the peaceful use of nuclear technology, by saying:

"The Governments is principally involved, to the extent permitted by elementary prudence, to begin now and continue to make joint contributions from their stockpiles of normal uranium and fissionable materials to an International Atomic Energy Agency. We would expect that such an agency would be set up under the aegis of the United Nations".

In 1957 the IAEA was founded and its headquarters was set up at the Vienna International Centre in Vienna, Austria. The Agency works with its Member States and multiple partners worldwide to promote safe, secure and peaceful nuclear technologies. As an independent international organization related to the United Nations system, the IAEA's relationship with the UN is regulated by special agreement. In terms of its Statute, the IAEA reports annually to the UN General Assembly and, when appropriate, to the Security Council regarding non-compliance by States with their safeguards obligations as well as on matters relating to international peace and security.

Three main pillars - or areas of work - underpin the IAEA's mission: Safety and Security; Science and Technology; and Safeguards and Verification. To fulfill the third pillar (Safeguards and Verification) is necessary to stop the spread of nuclear weapons and to work towards their elimination.

### *What is the NPT and its role?*

These purposes found expression in 1968, with the approval of the "Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). The NPT essentially freezes the number of declared nuclear weapon States at five (USA, Russia, UK, France and China). Other States are required to forswear the nuclear weapons option and to conclude comprehensive safeguards agreements with the IAEA on their nuclear materials.

Nowadays to guarantee the success of IAEA'S goals is necessary to implement and strengthen the NPT. The recent crises in Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Islamic Republic of Iran show the urgency to improve IAEA's credibility and powers.

One of the principle tools used by States party to the NPT to strengthen the treaty are the NPT Review Conferences, held every five years as stipulated in Article VIII, Paragraph III of the NPT.

The aim of these Conferences is to strengthen treaty implementation and its universality in the future.

The IAEA is responsible for verifying the implementation of the NPT and for the declarations by States about



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their nuclear materials and activities as declared in the Safeguards System. The protection of the IAEA allows to control that military fissile materials are used for peaceful and non-military purposes. In order to reach this goal "States should at least provide to the Agency the information specified under its safeguards agreements and additional protocol covering its nuclear-related activities at least since the time of becoming a party to the *NPT* or any equivalent regional non-proliferation instrument."

The necessities of disarmament call for all member States to sign the agreements and the additional protocols to *NPT*. The need to go about making the treaty stronger and more effective in order to prevent the acquisition and development of nuclear weapons and technology is a *must*.

"[...] we must transform the dynamics of the world power struggle from the negative nuclear arms race [...] to a positive contest [...] for the purpose of making peace and prosperity a reality for all of the nations of the world.

In short, we must shift the arms race into a "peace race."

- Martin Luther King Jr.-