

International Law, International Humanitarian Law, and Treaties

OBJECTIVES

1. Discuss the development of various treaties and laws that govern nuclear disarmament and environmental protection.
2. Discuss how these laws and treaties have been used by various States and how and why other States take issue with these treaties and laws.
3. Criticize how to best advocate for the protection of these treaties and why they are important for nuclear disarmament and climate change.
4. Discuss about environmental law surrounding nuclear weapons and how to strengthen it.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Are international laws and treaties an effective form of governing? Why or why not?
2. What are the best ways to enforce treaties surrounding nuclear disarmament and climate change?
3. Biological, chemical, and nuclear, cause unnecessary suffering, are indiscriminate in nature, and violate the principle of proportionality, what is the moral and ethical difference between the three types of weapons?
4. Do you think that the international system is suffering from a legal gap in regulating nuclear weapons, or do you think that the real issue is a compliance gap? Both? Why?
5. How can we as youth help ensure that our governmental leaders uphold their international legal obligations?

ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Browse the background information on international law, international humanitarian law, and nuclear weapons. [Click here](#)

Activity 2: Read the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons [here](#) (pages 19-29): try and make a case or argument in support of it. What additions or subtractions would you make to this treaty?

Activity 3: Read this handout on Nuclear Weapons under International Law from the Geneva Academy. Pay particular attention to Section C on environmental law. What is the best way to converge nuclear disarmament law and environmental law so that they strengthen one another? Is there a need to do this?

OTHER RESOURCES

<https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/npt/text>

<https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/tpnw/>

https://www.icanw.org/pocket_guides_the_legal_gap

<https://www.icrc.org/en/war-and-law/treaties-customary-law/geneva-conventions>