



General Assembly First Committee: Committee History and Structure¹

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The United Nations General Assembly (GA) was established in 1945 by the Charter of the United Nations.² Each Member State has a permanent seat on this committee. Thus, the GA is the congress or parliament of the United Nations. It “occupies a central position as the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations.”³

In the GA, each UN Member State has one vote. No matter how different in military and economic power, all are equal. Thus, the United States’ vote counts the same as Egypt’s, and Bolivia has the same voice as China. This is opposed to some other UN committees, such as the Security Council, which have limited membership or special voting rules. This feature gives the General Assembly a great deal of legitimacy on the world stage. It is a place where world public opinion can be expressed.

The GA covers all issues of global importance. Article 14 of the United Nations Charter gives the GA the power to “recommend measures for the peaceable adjustment of any situation, regardless of origin, which it deems likely to impair the general welfare or friendly relations among nations.” According to the Charter, the GA “may discuss any questions or any matters within the scope of the present Charter or relating to the powers and functions of any organs” except “any matters relative to the maintenance of international peace and security which are being dealt with by the Security Council.”⁴

The majority of GA resolutions originate in one of the GA’s many subcommittees, such as GA-1 (disarmament and security), GA-2 (economic and financial), GA-3 (social, humanitarian, and cultural), and ECOSOC (economic and social). Thus, the relationship between the GA and its subcommittees is akin to that between the US Senate and its subcommittees. Resolutions passed by subcommittees are simply working papers. Only when the GA passes a resolution does it go into effect.

The GA-1 is a forum for UN Member States to discuss and take action on security and disarmament issues.⁵ Like the other main committees of the GA, the GA-1 was established in 1947.⁶ Until 1993, the GA-1 was called the Political and Security Committee. General Assembly Resolution 47/233 (1993) renamed it the

¹ This background guide was written by Karen Ruth Adams, Montana Model UN faculty advisor, with contributions from William Selph, Samantha Schorzman, Samantha Stephens, Evan Laskowski, Dani Howlett, and Nicholas Potratz. Copyright 2017 by Karen Ruth Adams.

² “Charter of the United Nations,” Chapter IV, <http://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/chapter-iv/index.html>.

³ “Functions and Powers of the United Nations General Assembly,” United Nations General Assembly website, <http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/background.shtml>.

⁴ United Nations, “Charter of the United Nations,” Chapter IV.

⁵ UN General Assembly First Committee website, <http://www.un.org/en/ga/first/index.shtml>.

⁶ UN General Assembly, “Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly,” A/520, 2 December 1947, Rule 90, page 17, <http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/ropga/plenary.shtml>.

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Disarmament and Security Committee.⁷ Like the other GA committees, the GA-1 meets each fall at UN headquarters in New York, as well as in special sessions as deemed necessary.

The mandate of the GA is limited by the existence and powers of the Security Council. As mentioned, it can address issues related to international peace and security only if they are not currently under consideration by the Security Council.⁸ In principle, this provision would seem to enable the Security Council to completely dominate the UN's deliberations on security matters. In fact, however, disagreements between P-5 members often stymie the Security Council. For example, the Security Council has never reached agreement on how to respond to North Korea's November 2010 shelling of a South Korean island.⁹

In 1950, during the Korean War, the US led an effort to clarify this power in General Assembly Resolution 377. This resolution, the "Uniting for Peace" resolution, states that:

if the Security Council, because of lack of unanimity of the permanent members, fails to exercise its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security in any case where there appears to be a threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression, the General Assembly shall consider the matter immediately with a view to making appropriate recommendations to Members for collective measures, including in the case of a breach of the peace or act of aggression the use of armed force when necessary, to maintain or restore international peace and security.¹⁰

This is a key power of the General Assembly. Because each of the five permanent members of the Security Council (the US, UK, France, Russia, and China) has only one vote and no veto in the General Assembly, they cannot dominate the GA like they do the Security Council. But the power of the General Assembly to call emergency special sessions has only been used ten times.¹¹ Historically, these sessions have been most often convened at the request of the US.¹² The most recent emergency special session, however, was called by Qatar in 1997 to address the "Illegal Israeli actions in occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory." Unlike previous emergency special sessions, this session has never been adjourned. Instead debate has been repeatedly suspended and reopened. This last occurred on January 15 and 16, 2009.¹³

The GA has called so few emergency special sessions on security matters because it is rare for security issues to be completely ignored by the Security Council. In addition, it is often difficult for the GA to obtain the two-thirds majority required in Article 18 of the UN Charter to pass resolutions with respect to "the maintenance of

⁷ UN General Assembly Resolution 47/233, 17 August 1993, http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/47/233&Lang=E.

⁸ United Nations, "Charter of the United Nations," Chapter IV, Article 12.

⁹ Louis Charbonneau, "U.N. Security Council deadlocked on Korean crisis," Reuters, 19 December 2010, <http://www.reuters.com/article/2010/12/20/us-korea-north-un-idUSTRE6BJ08A20101220>.

¹⁰ United Nations General Assembly Resolution 377 (1950), <http://research.un.org/en/docs/ga/quick/regular/5>.

¹¹ For a list of emergency special sessions and related resolutions, see <http://www.un.org/en/ga/sessions/emergency.shtml>.

¹² Karen A. Mingst and Margaret P. Karns, *The United Nations in the 21st Century*, 3rd edition (Boulder: Westview, 2007), p. 30.

¹³ United Nations General Assembly, "Tenth Emergency Special Session," <http://www.un.org/en/ga/sessions/emergency10th.shtml>.

international peace and security.”¹⁴ Even when such resolutions are passed, they are not binding on Member States. Unlike Security Council resolutions, GA resolutions are simply recommendations. As a result, it can be difficult for the GA to persuade states with large and capable militaries to carry out enforcement measures to reverse an act of aggression.

Thus, although both the GA and the Security Council are charged with addressing international peace and security, the Security Council has more authority on particular breaches of the peace. Nevertheless, the GA-1 can be an effective voice for world public opinion on overarching security and disarmament issues.¹⁵ In particular, draft resolutions passed by the GA-1 often inspire treaties and conventions that are binding on the states that sign them.¹⁶ In addition, because of the GA-1’s role as a subcommittee of the GA, which controls the UN budget,¹⁷ the GA-1 can initiate projects related to disarmament and security that have a good chance of being funded.

Membership, Voting, and Leadership

The membership of the GA-1 includes all 193 UN Member States. In addition, non-member states and other entities recognized by the UN as permanent observers may attend and participate in meetings, but they cannot vote. At present, permanent observers include Palestine and the Holy See (Vatican City), as well as numerous international organizations, such as the European Union and African Union.¹⁸

Each UN Member State has one vote. Resolutions and reports pass the committee and go on for General Assembly consideration if approved by a simple majority of member states.

Regional blocs and other alliances play an important role in building consensus. Blocs consist of both countries in the same region and countries from different regions that face similar problems. For example, the Group of 77 is a group of less-developed countries that often vote together.¹⁹

The Chair of the GA-1 chairs the meetings and corrects any procedural mistakes. The chairs of the GA-1 and the other five main GA committees are elected annually by the members of their committees, with one chair from each world region. Elections are held at least three months before the beginning of the annual session. The other officers of the GA-1 (three vice chairs and a rapporteur) are elected at the beginning of each annual session.²⁰

History and Challenges

In 1945, the founding members of the UN expressed their goals for the organization in Article I of the UN

¹⁴ United Nations, “Charter of the United Nations,” Chapter IV, Article 18.

¹⁵ UN General Assembly First Committee website.

¹⁶ Mingst and Karns, *The United Nations in the 21st Century*, p. 33.

¹⁷ United Nations, “Charter of the United Nations,” Chapter IV.

¹⁸ United Nations, “About Permanent Observers,” available at <http://www.un.org/en/sections/member-states/about-permanent-observers/index.html>.

¹⁹ “The Group of 77 at the United Nations,” <http://www.g77.org/>. For more information on voting blocs, see Soo Yeon Kim and Bruce Russett, “The new politics of voting alignments in the United Nations General Assembly,” *International Organization* 50, no. 4 (1996), pp. 629-652.

²⁰ UN General Assembly, “Rules of Procedure,” Section V, Rule 30, and Section XIII, Rules 99 and 103, http://www.un.org/ga/ropga_prez.shtml and http://www.un.org/ga/ropga_cttees.shtml.

Charter. The first two of these goals falls into the category of security. They are:

1. To maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace.
2. To develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace.²¹

Responsibility for these goals is shared between the General Assembly, especially the General Assembly First Committee (disarmament and security), the Security Council, the Trusteeship Council (which suspended operations in 1994), and the General Assembly Fourth Committee (special political and decolonization). As explained above, there is a complex relationship between the GA and the Security Council. Nevertheless, the GA-1 can be effective.

A good example of the GA-1's contribution to international peace and security is its work in promoting the landmine treaty. As early as 1992, non-governmental organizations such as Human Rights Watch called for a ban on antipersonnel mines, which have killed and maimed hundreds of thousands of civilians over the past several decades. It was not until the end of 1996, however, when "[a] total of 155 countries support[ed] a UNGA resolution proposed by the US supporting the negotiation of a treaty banning landmines as soon as possible" that there was enough momentum to draft a treaty.²² The report calling for this resolution originated in the GA-1.²³ By the end of 1997, Member States had written the Ottawa Treaty and the UN opened it for signature and ratification. The treaty entered into force on 1 March 1999 after it had been ratified by 40 states. Today, 162 states have ratified the treaty.²⁴

The success of the landmine treaty demonstrates both the GA's role as the "conscience of the Security Council"²⁵ and the GA's limitations as an enforcement body capable of regulating the behavior of the most powerful states. Among the 35 states that have not signed the Ottawa Treaty are the United States, China, and Russia, which are three of the five permanent members of the Security Council.²⁶

²¹ United Nations, "Charter of the United Nations," Chapter I, Article 1.

²² International Campaign to Ban Landmines, "Timeline of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines," 2015, available at <http://www.icbl.org/en-gb/resources/campaigning-tools/icbl-campaign-chronology.aspx>.

²³ UN Chronicle, "First Committee recommends forty-eight disarmament related texts - General Assembly 51," Spring 1997, p. 2, <https://www.questia.com/magazine/1G1-19897996/first-committee-recommends-forty-eight-disarmament>.

²⁴ International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), "Treaty Status," <http://www.icbl.org/en-gb/the-treaty/treaty-status.aspx>.

²⁵ Courtney B. Smith, *Politics and Process at the United Nations: The Global Dance*, 2006 (Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 2006), p. 161.

²⁶ ICBL, "Treaty Status."

Tension between the GA and GA-1, on the one hand, and the Security Council, on the other, are also evident in the GA's numerous resolutions on nuclear disarmament. Because GA resolutions are recommendations, they have not been effective in encouraging states with nuclear weapons to disarm.²⁷

Recent and Current Work

In 1978, the GA-1 initiated a resolution creating the UN Disarmament Commission (UNDC), which is the part of the UN Secretariat charged with gathering information on arms control and disarmament issues and making reports and recommendations on those issues to the GA.²⁸ Two of the GA-1's most important recent initiatives – urging states to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty and holding a conference to write an arms-trade treaty – have been in response to UNDC recommendations.

In 2008, the GA-1 responded to pressure from then UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon²⁹ and the UNDC³⁰ and passed a draft resolution calling on states to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT).³¹ States that ratify the treaty promise not to test or otherwise detonate nuclear weapons and to allow other states to monitor and inspect their nuclear facilities.³² To enter into force, 150 countries must ratify the treaty. This requirement has been met, with 166 ratifications. The treaty must also be ratified by “all 44 of the States mentioned in Annex 2 of the Treaty – those which possessed nuclear weapons or nuclear weapons technology at the time it opened for signature in 1996.”³³ To date, just 36 of the states with nuclear weapons or nuclear energy technology have ratified the treaty. Five of the required states (China, Egypt, Iran, Israel, and the United States) have signed but not ratified the treaty, while three others -- the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea), India, and Pakistan – have not even signed the treaty.³⁴

In 2009, the UNDC recommended that the General Assembly hold a conference in 2012 to establish a legally binding arms trade treaty “on the highest possible common international standards for conventional arms

²⁷ For an analysis of the voting records of nuclear states on nuclear disarmament resolutions considered by the GA, see David Krieger, “UN Voting on Nuclear Disarmament Shows Abysmal US Record,” Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, 2008, <http://www.wagingpeace.org/un-voting-on-nuclear-disarmament-shows-abysmal-us-record/>.

²⁸ UN Disarmament Commission, <https://www.un.org/disarmament/institutions/disarmament-commission/>.

²⁹ Ban Ki-moon, “Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty: Report of the Secretary-General,” 3 July 2007, <http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=8061>.

³⁰ “Report of the Disarmament Commission for 2007,” 1 May 2007, [https://disarmament-library.un.org/UNODA/Library.nsf/0bb8a163b66d627f85256beb0073f596/271af4dc725a51f985257321005da3a3/\\$FILE/a-62-42.pdf](https://disarmament-library.un.org/UNODA/Library.nsf/0bb8a163b66d627f85256beb0073f596/271af4dc725a51f985257321005da3a3/$FILE/a-62-42.pdf).

³¹ “Increasing Pressure on the Nine CTBT Holdouts at the United Nations,” CTBTO Preparatory Commission website, 29 October 2008, <http://www.ctbto.org/press-centre/highlights/2008/increasing-pressure-on-the-nine-ctbt-hold-outs-at-the-united-nations/>.

³² Arms Control Association, “Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty at a Glance,” <http://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/test-ban-treaty-at-a-glance>.

³³ “Ratification of UN-backed nuclear treaty nears milestone of 150 countries,” *UN News Centre*, 19 August 2009, [http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=31809&Cr=Nuclear&Cr1=](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=31809&Cr=Nuclear&Cr1=;); Arms Control Association, “The Status of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty: Signatories and Ratifiers,” July 2017, <http://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/ctbtsig>.

³⁴ Arms Control Association, “The Status of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.”

transfers.”³⁵ The month-long meeting, held in July 2012, drafted a treaty but failed to adopt it, largely in response to US delays.³⁶ The GA approved the final text of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) in April 2013 with 154 votes in favor, 3 opposed (Iran, North Korea, and Syria), and 23 abstentions (including two permanent members of the Security Council, Russia and China).³⁷

As a result of its approval, the ATT is now open for signature and ratification. To date, 130 states have signed the treaty, and 92 states have ratified it.³⁸ The ATT entered into force on 24 December 2014 after surpassing the requisite 50 ratifications, drawing praise from UN officials like former Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon. Critics have pointed out, however, that the treaty remains vague, and only binds states not to transfer weapons to other states if those weapons could be used to atrocities such as genocide. The treaty does not prevent transfers to non-state actors, such as terrorist organizations.³⁹

Because the GA cannot send peacekeepers to intervene in conflicts and has no binding authority, in contrast to the Security Council, much of the GA-1's work focuses on disarmament and establishing international agreements to reduce threats to human security. For instance, in the 71st (2016-2017) Session of the GA-1, nearly every topic under consideration in the GA-1 fell under the purview of disarmament. Topics within this category included, *inter alia*, Prevention of an arms race in outer space; the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean; efforts to establish regional nuclear free zones treaties in places such as Africa and the Middle-East; and attention to the armament statuses of particular countries, such as Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status.⁴⁰

One of the challenges of the GA-1 is to link its work on disarmament and security to development, and more specifically, the Sustainable Development Goals advanced by the General Assembly in 2015.⁴¹ In that year, the GA committed to reach the following goals by 2030:

1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

³⁵ “Sending Six Drafts to General Assembly, First Committee Calls for International Day for World Free of Nuclear Weapons, Conference on Arms Trade Treaty in 2012,” General Assembly First Committee, 30 Oct. 2009, available at <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2009/gadis3402.doc.htm>.

³⁶ Farrah Zughni and Daryl G. Kimball, “Bid to Craft Arms Trade Treaty Stalls,” Arms Control Association, 27 July 2012, http://www.armscontrol.org/act/2012_09/Bid-to-Craft-Arms-Trade-Treaty-Stalls.

³⁷ UN General Assembly, “Recorded Vote: Resolution 67/234B,” 2 April 2013, <http://unbisnet.un.org:8080/ipac20/ipac.jsp?profile=voting&index=.VM&term=ares67234b>. For an overview of the history and provisions of the treaty, see UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), “The Arms Trade Treaty,” <http://www.un.org/disarmament/ATT/>.

³⁸ UNODA, “The Arms Trade Treaty: Status of the Treaty,” <http://disarmament.un.org/treaties/t/att>.

³⁹ “UN Officials Hail Entry into Force of Landmark Global Arms Trade Treaty,” *UN News Centre*, 23 December 2014, available at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=49668#.VdPaYvm6c1I>.

⁴⁰ UN General Assembly First Committee A/C.1/71/1, “Allocation of agenda items to the First Committee,” 16 September 2016, available at http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/C.1/71/1.

⁴¹ United Nations, “United Nations Sustainable Development Summit 2015,” available at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/summit>.

7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
10. Reduce inequality within and among countries
11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.⁴²

Because of the devastating effects of conflict and war on human security and development, the GA-1's work was vital to the success of the 2000 Millennium Development Goals, which ended in 2015,⁴³ and will continue to assist the international community with meeting the new fifteen-year targets set by the SDGs. In 2013, the GA-1 passed a resolution on "The Relationship between Disarmament and Development," which urges "the international community to devote part of the resources made available by the implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements to economic and social development, with a view to reducing the ever-widening gap between developed and developing countries."⁴⁴

In 2014, the GA-1 passed "Women, Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Arms Control," further coupling security issues to issues with social and developmental importance. The resolution calls for the promotion of opportunities for women to become involved in domestic and international disarmament processes. It also encourages states to implement "national risk assessment criteria" to prevent "gender-based violence or violence against women and girls."⁴⁵ Most recently, in 2016, the GA-1 passed another resolution on the topic. The resolution again called for the promotion of women's involvement in international disarmament. It also tied the role of women in disarmament to the fifth SDG, and decided to include the topic again in its 73rd (2018) session.⁴⁶

In the most recent 71st session (2016-2017), GA-1 passed multiple resolutions concerning nuclear nonproliferation, among them were examinations of the costs of nuclear disarmament and a ban on fissile material for nuclear weapons, as well as calls for a more comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty and an emphasis on a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.⁴⁷

⁴² United Nations, "Sustainable Development Goals," available at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>.

⁴³ United Nations, "Millennium Development Goals: 2015 Progress Chart," http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20PC%20final.pdf.

⁴⁴ UN General Assembly First Committee Draft Resolution A/C.1/68/L.15, available at http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/C.1/68/L.15.

⁴⁵ UN General Assembly First Committee Draft Resolution A/C.1/69/L.47, available at <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N14/577/71/PDF/N1457771.pdf?OpenElement>.

⁴⁶ UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/71/56, 13 December 2016, http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/71/56.

⁴⁷ United Nations, "Resolutions: 71st Session," available at <http://www.un.org/en/ga/71/resolutions.shtml>.

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In its 71st session, the First Committee held 26 sessions and sent 69 draft resolutions to the GA. According to the committee chair, Mr. Sabri Boukadoum of Algeria, the committee made important progress on several issues in the committee. This included decisions “to convene in 2017 a United Nations conference to move forward negotiations on a legally binding instrument to ban nuclear weapons, the creation of a preparatory process for a fissile material cut-off treaty and the establishment of a group of governmental experts to consider the role of verification in advancing nuclear disarmament.”⁴⁸

Agenda Topics for the MMUN Conference

At the 2017 MMUN Conference, the General Assembly First Committee will consider the following topics:

1. Nuclear Disarmament
2. Strengthening Security & Cooperation in Latin America & the Caribbean

When writing your position papers and resolutions, think broadly about these issues, remembering both the overarching goals of the United Nations General Assembly and the perspective of the country you represent. In addition, remember that the GA-1 can address only aspects of these issues that are not being addressed by the Security Council.

Recommended Reading

Annan, Kofi. “In Larger Freedom: Towards Development, Security, and Human Rights for All.” Report of the Secretary General. 21 March 2005. Available at http://www.un.org/en/events/pastevents/in_larger_freedom.shtml.

The “Strengthening of the UN” section of this report by the former secretary-general summarizes some of the problems of the General Assembly. In addition, the “Freedom from Fear” section summarizes many of the contemporary issues related to disarmament, peace, and security.

“Charter of the United Nations.” Available at <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/>.

This document lays out the purposes and procedures of the UN. Delegates should be familiar with this document, especially Chapter IV, which addresses the GA.

Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). “Armed Conflicts and Conflict Management” and “Arms Control and Disarmament Documentary Survey.” Available at <http://www.sipri.org/>.

SIPRI is prominent non-governmental organization that provides detailed information on the number, types, and locations of contemporary wars; the military forces, expenditures, and agreements of various states; the status of arms control treaties; and contemporary security challenges. It is an excellent resource for learning about many issues related to disarmament and security, as particular conflicts like the Syrian civil war.

UN Meetings Coverage and Press Releases. “First Committee Sends 69 Texts to General Assembly, Concluding Session by Approving Drafts on Chemical Weapons, Improvised Explosive Devices.” 2 November 2016. Available at <http://www.un.org/press/en/2016/gadis3567.doc.htm>.

⁴⁸ UN Meetings Coverage and Press Releases, “First Committee Sends 69 Texts to General Assembly, Concluding Session by Approving Drafts on Chemical Weapons, Improvised Explosive Devices,” 2 November 2016, available at <http://www.un.org/press/en/2016/gadis3567.doc.htm>.

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A summary of the work of the First Committee during the 71st session of the GA, this article provides references to the perspectives of UN states on a variety of issues.

United Nations. "The General Assembly of the United Nations." Available at <http://www.un.org/ga>.

This is the official website of the General Assembly. It provides information on the General Assembly's actions and duties, as well as the agendas and resolutions of its various committees.

United Nations. "General Assembly First Committee." Available at <http://www.un.org/en/ga/first/index.shtml>.

This is the official website of the GA-1. It provides access to the GA-1's current draft resolutions and reports. For GA-1 resolutions and meetings from last year, go to <https://www.un.org/disarmament/firstcommittee-71/>.

United Nations. "Member States." Available at <http://www.un.org/en/members/index.shtml>.

This site provides access to each state's UN mission website, where you can research your country's position on the issues before the UN. See also the sources in footnotes 33 and 37 to find out your country's position on the CTBT and ATT.

United Nations. "Millennium Development Goals Report 2015." Available at <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/reports.shtml>.

This report uses graphs and photos to show the accomplishments and gaps of the MDGs in various countries and regions between 2000-2015. It also provides suggestions for improving on the gains of the MDGs in and beyond 2015.

United Nations General Assembly. "General Debate." Available at <https://gadebate.un.org/en>.

From this site you can read or watch your country's speeches at high-level GA Plenaries. This will give you a sense of its policy priorities and diplomatic style.