



MODELO DE NACIONES UNIDAS DEL ITAM

---

Handbook for the delegates of

**SECURITY COUNCIL**  
**ITAMMUN 2008**

Prepared by:

<i>President:</i>	Lucía Gamboa
<i>Moderator:</i>	Alejandro Saltiel
<i>Conference Official:</i>	Daniel Finkler

This guide is for the exclusive use of the ITAM Model United Nations 2008.



Security Council-SC

## TOPIC A

### IRAN'S NUCLEAR ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

The Security Council is the body of the United Nations in charge of the maintaining international peace and security. Its powers, outlined in the United Nations Charter, include the establishment of peacekeeping operations, the establishment of international sanction regimes, and the authorization for military action.<sup>1</sup> The Security Council's mission is to identify and discuss the issues and positions of countries and blocs on the matters of Iran and its Nuclear Enrichment Program and the Arctic conquest for new territories. Both conflicts represent a threat to international security and call upon the Security Council to uphold to one of its statutory principles: the maintenance of international peace and security.

The Security Council's mission is to prevent Iran from becoming a nuclear power. Enriching uranium for energy purposes cannot itself be condemned. However, due to the pressing circumstances, a history with a lack of transparency and previous nuclear ambitions, a concrete framework with adequate procedural measures needs to be established. The Council aims at creating practical measures that provide enough incentives for Iran and opposing blocs from acting unilaterally and in discordance with the Security Council previously established sanctions. Failure to take responsive action can translate into serious international security destabilization.

In the past, Iran has openly expressed its nuclear ambitions, regardless of the international community's effort to prevent further nuclear buildup. Enriching activities seemed to have stabilized in 2003, but recent developments have reignited the conflict. The National Intelligence Estimate (NIE), which represents the analysis of all sixteen US intelligence agencies, and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), affirm that Iran did have a dedicated nuclear-weapons program until four years ago.<sup>2</sup> The NIE judges that, technically, Iran has the capacity to produce Highly Enriched Uranium (HEU) but would need to rely on secret facilities other than its plant in Natanz for it to be suitable for a nuclear weapon. By the end of 2008, Iran plans to open its first nuclear plant at Bushehr with the help of Russia's state atomic agency, conveying a new set of political implications and possible leverage, specifically in the oil sector.

---

<sup>1</sup> United Nations, "UN Security Council Background," (January 28, 2008: [http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/unsc\\_background.html](http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/unsc_background.html)).

<sup>2</sup> International Institute for Strategic Studies, "Iran's Nuclear Program: Assessing New Intelligence," Issue 10 Vol.13, December 2007.

Iran claims that enriching uranium is a sovereign right and aims to generate 200,000 megawatts of electricity in the next two decades.<sup>3</sup> Western powers fear that Iran's uranium enrichment program may be used to build nuclear weapons while Iran insists that its nuclear program is peaceful and continues to ignore repeated UN demands.<sup>4</sup> The difficulty rises in drawing a clear line between civil and military nuclear programs, combined with the uncertainty of Iran's transparency reputation. Most analysts say it would take until 2010 for Iran to build a deliverable weapon; however, Iran is using its nuclear ambitions as leverage for other conflicts.

Iran seeks to control its influence in the Middle East over the United States and to maintain high oil prices. Iran has voiced diplomatic demands towards the United States that include an end to its economic sanctions, to stop threatening for a regime change and to recognize its regional security interests.<sup>5</sup> The United States accuses Iran of funding, arming and training Iraqi militias while in turn, Iran claims that they are externalizing the problems the US is facing in Iraq.<sup>6</sup> Also, Iran has continued to dismiss the third round of negotiations; its Economy and Finance Minister, Davoud Danesh-Jafari, voiced that "new sanctions will not harm Iran's economy. High oil prices will help Iran to compensate."<sup>7</sup>

The Security Council has approved three sanction resolutions; resolution 1737 (December 2006), resolution 1747 (March 2007), and the most recent, resolution 1808, approved by all members except Indonesia (abstained) on March 2008.<sup>8</sup>

The latest resolution was needed because Iran had failed to comply with previous restrictions; none of the three resolutions allow the use of force to grant implementations. Indonesia's opposition comes by claiming that more sanctions will not move them forward.<sup>9</sup> Such measures include travel bans, permission to freeze Iranian suspects' assets, close monitoring of bank activities and suspicious cargo inspections.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>3</sup> "Iran receives more Russian nuclear fuel" *The Washington Post*, January 26, 2008, (January 28, 2008: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/01/26/AR2008012600482.html?sub=new>).

<sup>4</sup> "Iran could face fresh sanctions from UN," *Herald Tribune*, Jan 27, 2008, (Jan 27, 2008: <http://www.iht.com/articles/2008/01/27/africa/iran.php>).

<sup>5</sup> Peter David, "A grand bargain," *The Economist: the world in 2008*, January 2008, p. 20.

<sup>6</sup> "Iran says U.S. shows 'Iranophobia' over Iraq" *Reuters*, April 20, 2008 (April 20, 2008: <http://www.reuters.com/article/politicsNews/idUSL2071453620080420>).

<sup>7</sup> Parisa Hafezi, "Iran shrugs off sanctions threat over atomic plans," *Reuters*, February 25<sup>t</sup>, 2008 (March 30, 2008: <http://www.reuters.com/article/topNews/idUST3427520080225>).

<sup>8</sup> United Nations News Centre, "Security Council receives additional reports on Iran sanctions", March 17, 2008 (March 24, 2008: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=26007&Cr=iran&Cr1>).

<sup>9</sup> United Nations News Centre, "Security Council authorizes more sanctions against Iran over nuclear issue," March 3, 2008 (April 20, 2008: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=25835&Cr=iran&Cr1>).

<sup>10</sup> Harvey Morris and Daniel Dombey, "UN pressed on Iran sanctions," *Financial Times*, January 27, 2008, (January 27, 2008: <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/485075ba-ccf5-11dc-8df7-000077b07658.html>).

The United States and its European allies have been pressing for other measures but Russia and China are avoiding agreement due to the new results presented by the NIE. President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad rejected an EU proposal of a "double suspension" which proposed Iran to halt enrichment in return for a lifting of United Nations sanctions against it; within the objective of easing tensions and giving way to new talks.<sup>11</sup> UN and US economic sanctions are creating distress in the area as European and Japanese banks are backing out, India has loosened its refined gasoline and diesel supply and dependence on western technology is becoming evident.<sup>12</sup>

In October 2007, the head of the IAEA, Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei, assured to the United Nations that they found no evidence of Iran having the nuclear material that can be readily used into a weapon, though analysts say it would take Iran until 2010 to build a deliverable weapon.<sup>13</sup> A second report was issued on February 22, 2008; however, its circulation is restricted and it cannot be released to the public until the board decides so. The IAEA Board of Governors had convened in Vienna on March 3<sup>rd</sup> to discuss the new report entitled *Implementation of the NPT Safeguards Agreement and Relevant Provisions of Security Council Resolutions 1737 (2006) and 1747 (2007) in the Islamic Republic of Iran*. Dr. ElBaradei reported that Iran needs to implement the Additional Protocol to allow the agency additional authority to places and documents that could further justify Iran's pacific nuclear ambitions. The IAEA report was focus of discussion on March 2008 among the US and its allies who claim that the NIE is unable to provide all the necessary information in order to address the issue appropriately and contain Iran (subject to change with new developments).<sup>14</sup>

The 2007 NIE report was openly accepted by China, which had previously considered additional UN Security Council Sanctions, and by Russia, who has always disclaimed attacks towards Iran. However, the United States, the United Kingdom, France and Germany are reluctant to change their policy of pressure, regardless of the report's new evidence. The report had strong political implications on US diplomacy as it includes analysis of US intelligence agencies and reduces the possibility for US to masquerade its aggressive policy towards Iran.<sup>15</sup>

The United States has promised to help Europe through political and economic rewards as it sees Iran's containment as the axis of its Middle East

<sup>11</sup> Patrick Worsnip and Louis Charbonneau, "Iran to face more travel bans, asset freezes" *Reuters*, January 25, 2008, (January 30, 2008: <http://www.reuters.com/article/topNews/idUSN2533575820080125>).

<sup>12</sup> "Iran's Nuclear Program: As the enrichment machines spin on" *The Economist*, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008 (February 17, 2008: [http://www.economist.com/research/articlesBySubject/displaystory.cfm?subjectid=821240&story\\_id=10601584](http://www.economist.com/research/articlesBySubject/displaystory.cfm?subjectid=821240&story_id=10601584)).

<sup>13</sup> Peter David, op. cit.

<sup>14</sup> International Atomic Energy Agency, "Latest Iran Safeguards Report Delivered to IAEA Board", February 24, 2008 (February 24, 2008: <http://www.iaea.org/NewsCenter/News/2008/iranreport0208.html>).

<sup>15</sup> International Institute for Strategic Studies, op. cit., 2007.

policy. With no new evidence, countries such as Israel and France draw different conclusions and see no other than hostile reasons for Iran's nuclear ambitions. Since the Lebanese war of 2006, Israel and Sunni Arab governments have pressed the United States to contend Iran's nuclear ambitions because of their strengthening connections with Hezbollah.<sup>16</sup> Palestine's strongest ally is Iran and Israel has voiced willingness to act alone against Iran hoping to impulse a stronger US policy and is reluctant to accept Iran's nuclear ambitions.<sup>17</sup> Russia has now started shipping low-enriched uranium fuel -which can easily be converted into HEU in a matter of weeks- to power the nuclear plant at Bushehr. Russia is increasing regional and international tensions; it offered to enrich uranium on Iran's account<sup>18</sup> and offered Libya its support to start nuclear development. The non-aligned movement conformed by South Africa, Indonesia, Viet Nam and Libya, resist to force Iran to halt its enrichment program due to a concern about the monopolization of nuclear power by wealthier countries.<sup>19</sup>

The ultimate aim of the Security Council is to normalize the unstable relationship between Iran and the international community. In order to achieve this, Council members need to acknowledge solid and sustained evidence in order to create a plausible framework that neither interferes with Iran's national integrity nor gives it enough leeway to consolidate a highly enriched uranium program with the potential to damage international peace and security in year's time.

The veracity of the NIE along with the pressures in the Middle East, the opposition between the United States and Iran, and the wide range of security implications are the main areas of concern the council needs not lose focus of. Careful examination of past sanctions and a meticulous elaboration of a third round of such must be aimed at creating consent among factions, practical and possible implementation but most importantly, preventive enough to rule out hostility escalation.

### Questions for delegates:

---

<sup>16</sup> Vali Nasr and Ray Takeyh, "The costs of containing Iran" *Foreign Affairs*, January/February 2008.

<sup>17</sup> Peter David, op. cit.

<sup>18</sup> "Russia, Iran and nuclear fuel: dangerous liaisons," *The Economist*, December 19, 2007, (January 30, 2008:  
[http://www.economist.com/research/articlesBySubject/displaystory.cfm?subjectid=821240&story\\_id=10329031](http://www.economist.com/research/articlesBySubject/displaystory.cfm?subjectid=821240&story_id=10329031)).

<sup>19</sup> Louis Charbonneau, "Six Powers to meet on Iran next week" *Reuters*, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2008 (February 24, 2008:  
<http://www.reuters.com/article/topNews/idUSN2258872720080222?pageNumber=2&virtualBrandChannel=0&sp=true>).

1. How is your country involved in the problem? What is the country position?
2. How can your country be helpful to come to an agreement to solve this issue?
3. Can the Security Council continue to impose sanctions to Iran?
4. What is, from the perspective of your country, the best platform for negotiation to solve this conflict?
5. Can resolutions 1737, 1747 and 1808 be modified for them to be effective? Are they useful to create a new updated resolution?

## Bibliography and recommended readings

“Iran could face fresh sanctions from UN,” *Herald Tribune*, Jan 27, 2008, (Jan 27, 2008: <http://www.iht.com/articles/2008/01/27/africa/iran.php>).

“Iran receives more Russian nuclear fuel” *The Washington Post*, January 26, 2008, (January 28, 2008: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/01/26/AR2008012600482.html?sub=new>).

“Iran says U.S. shows ‘Iranophobia’ over Iraq” *Reuters*, April 20, 2008 (April 20, 2008: <http://www.reuters.com/article/politicsNews/idUSL2071453620080420>).

“Iran’s Nuclear Program: As the enrichment machines spin on” *The Economist*, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008 (February 17, 2008: [http://www.economist.com/research/articlesBySubject/displaystory.cfm?subjectid=821240&story\\_id=10601584](http://www.economist.com/research/articlesBySubject/displaystory.cfm?subjectid=821240&story_id=10601584)).

“Russia, Iran and nuclear fuel: dangerous liaisons,” *The Economist*, December 19, 2007, (January 30, 2008: [http://www.economist.com/research/articlesBySubject/displaystory.cfm?subjectid=821240&story\\_id=10329031](http://www.economist.com/research/articlesBySubject/displaystory.cfm?subjectid=821240&story_id=10329031)).

CHARBONNEAU, Louis, “Six Powers to meet on Iran next week” *Reuters*, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2008 (February 24, 2008: <http://www.reuters.com/article/topNews/idUSN2258872720080222?pageNumber=2&virtualBrandChannel=0&sp=true>).

DAVID, Peter, “A grand bargain,” *The Economist: the world in 2008*, January 2008, p. 20.

HAFEZI, Parisa, “Iran shrugs off sanctions threat over atomic plans,” *Reuters*, February 25, 2008 (March 30, 2008: <http://www.reuters.com/article/topNews/idUST3427520080225>).

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY, “Latest Iran Safeguards Report Delivered to IAEA Board”, February 24, 2008 (February 24, 2008: <http://www.iaea.org/NewsCenter/News/2008/iranreport0208.html>).

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES, “Iran’s Nuclear Program: Assessing New Intelligence,” Issue 10 Vol.13, December 2007.

MORRIS, Harvey and Daniel Dombey, “UN pressed on Iran sanctions,” *Financial Times*, January 27, 2008, (January 27, 2008:

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/485075ba-ccf5-11dc-8df7-000077b07658.html>).

NASR, Vali and Ray Takeyh, “The costs of containing Iran” *Foreign Affairs*, January/February 2008.

UNITED NATIONS NEWS CENTRE, “Security Council authorizes more sanctions against Iran over nuclear issue,” March 3, 2008 (April 20, 2008: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=25835&Cr=iran&Cr1>).

UNITED NATIONS NEWS CENTRE, “Security Council receives additional reports on Iran sanctions”, March 17, 2008 (March 24, 2008: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=26007&Cr=iran&Cr1>).

UNITED NATIONS, “UN Security Council Background,” (January 28, 2008: [http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/unsc\\_background.html](http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/unsc_background.html)).

WORSNIP, Patrick and Louis Charbonneau, “Iran to face more travel bans, asset freezes” *Reuters*, January 25, 2008, (January 30, 2008: <http://www.reuters.com/article/topNews/idUSN2533575820080125>).

## TOPIC B

### THE ARCTIC CONQUEST

The changing nature of international conflict calls for a revision in the agenda of the Security Council. Global warming has outspread from its environmental context onto the political and economic realm, turning the problem into an international matter. Arctic issues have been largely ignored; the lack of information and legislation on the access to natural resources and shipping routes are the main concerns that pose threats to the security of the region.

The Arctic sea ice has melted about 100,000 km<sup>2</sup> per year for the last decade, totaling a decrease of about a million km<sup>2</sup> of its total area,<sup>20</sup> half its size 50 years ago.<sup>21</sup> As it melts, new sources of oil, gas, minerals and diamonds are revealed. The five Arctic Circle countries -Russia, Canada, Denmark, Norway and the United States- are trying to prove that the Arctic sea floors are natural extensions of their land and thus belong to them. Data from the United States Geological Survey estimates that 25% of the world's undiscovered hydrocarbon reserves are in the Arctic, implying large benefits for those who gain control the region.

This scenario not only entails a problem of land rights and oil exploitation, but also the greater emission of greenhouse gases (the main contributor to the source of the melting), the release of methane and the competition for control over new shipping routes. The Arctic region is not governed by any multilateral norms and regulations because it was never expected to become a navigable waterway and much less an exploitable land. Countries must weigh the risks and proceed carefully to prevent future international conflicts over the rights to this untapped resourceful land.<sup>22</sup>

The Arctic is a 30 million km<sup>2</sup> landmass with a population of about four million. It includes thirty different indigenous groups and dozens of languages. It has vast natural resources and a clean environment comparable to the rest of the world. The great melt has changed the conditions of such area and initiated the Arctic Conquest. Global warming is the main cause of this geopolitical issue. The industrial emissions of greenhouse gasses entered the region's climate into a

---

<sup>20</sup> National Snow and Ice Center, "Arctic Sea Ice Shatters All Previous Record Lows," October 2007, (20 March 2008: [http://nsidc.org/news/press/2007\\_seaiceminimum/20071001\\_pressrelease.html](http://nsidc.org/news/press/2007_seaiceminimum/20071001_pressrelease.html)).

<sup>21</sup> Scott Borgerson G., "Arctic Meltdown", *Foreign Affairs.*, Num. II, Vol. 87.

<sup>22</sup> "The great melt," on *The Economist: the World in 2008*, January 2008, pp. 149-150.

vicious melting cycle known as the ice-albedo feedback loop were retreating ice is further contributing to the melt.<sup>23</sup>

At the end of the 2007 melt season, sea ice was 39% below the long-term average from 1979. On September 2007, the Northwest Passage opened for the first time in recorded history anticipating the time predictions about the impact of warming temperatures.<sup>24</sup> The passage is a direct shipping route in the Canadian Arctic between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, that connects Europe with Asia. This new route significantly reduces time for ships that currently travel through the Suez or the Panama Canal.<sup>25</sup> The Northeast Passage, a similar route that boards Siberia's coast instead of Canada's, could possibly open in the next five to ten years making trans-Arctic voyages possible.

The new search for resources is commonly called the "Cold Rush" which translates to approximately 10 billion tons of oil and gas and deposits of tin, manganese, gold, nickel, lead, platinum, diamonds, plus new fishing zones and the new lucrative trade routes themselves.<sup>26</sup> The change in global trade patterns could reduce distances by as much as 40% which represent savings to shipping companies of about 20%.<sup>27</sup>

The largest oil and gas deposits are found in the coast off Russia. Russia has started expeditions by taking rock samples in order to claim that the Lomonosov Ridge, an underwater mountain chain, is an extension of its territory. The Lomonosov Ridge extends all the way to North America, therefore, Canada and Denmark could make the same claim.<sup>28</sup> On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, a Russian scientist, Artur Chilingarov, planted a Russian flag within a titanium capsule 4,200 meters under the North Pole. This act has no legal binding but represents a colonization strategy with military implications. Russia is looking into an amount of its Northern Fleet in order to assure control of the Arctic while Canada plans to spend \$7 billion on new Arctic patrol vessels and the US will follow the lead as well.<sup>29</sup>

Gazprom, Russia's state-controlled energy company, made a deal with French national company, Total. Gazprom agreed to give Total a 25% stake of the Shtokman project deal. This project will start work on the 600km Shtokman

<sup>23</sup> NASA, "'Remarkable' drop in Arctic sea ice raises questions", September 25, 2007, (May 12, 2008: [http://www.nasa.gov/vision/earth/environment/arctic\\_minimum.html](http://www.nasa.gov/vision/earth/environment/arctic_minimum.html)).

<sup>24</sup> Snow and Ice Data Center, "Arctic Sea Ice Shatters All Previous Record Lows", October 2007, (March 20, 2008: [http://nsidc.org/news/press/2007\\_seaiceminimum/20071001\\_pressrelease.html](http://nsidc.org/news/press/2007_seaiceminimum/20071001_pressrelease.html)).

<sup>25</sup> John Roach, "Arctic melt opens Northwest passage," *National Geographic News*, September 17, 2007 (March 30, 2008: <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2007/09/070917-northwest-passage.html>).

<sup>26</sup> "Gold Rush Under the ice: Russia wants a vast slice of the Arctic", *The Economist*, August 2007, (April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008: [http://www.economist.com/world/europe/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=9607005](http://www.economist.com/world/europe/displaystory.cfm?story_id=9607005)).

<sup>27</sup> Scott Borgerson G., op. cit.

<sup>28</sup> Richard A. Lovett, "Arctic oil rush sparks battles over seafloor," *National Geographic News*, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2007 (March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2008: <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2007/08/070823-arctic-oil.html>).

<sup>29</sup> "Gold Rush Under the ice: Russia wants a vast slice of the Arctic", *The Economist*, August 2007, (April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008: [http://www.economist.com/world/europe/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=9607005](http://www.economist.com/world/europe/displaystory.cfm?story_id=9607005)).

gas field that stretches out into the Arctic from Russia's northern coast.<sup>30</sup> Low temperatures enable to reduce gas liquefaction-related energy costs and absence of ices and permafrost are favorable factors that allow the development of the Shtokman project.<sup>31</sup>

As it is state controlled, Gazprom has often been used as a foreign policy tool. In the past, it has limited gas supply towards the European Union claiming its actions as "accidents". Gazprom was willing to negotiate with foreign firms because it has little experience in offshore fields, it needs to compensate from its under production in western Siberian fields and needs money to develop the 300 meter deep deposits under the Barents Sea in order to achieve its completion target for 2013.<sup>32</sup> Giving a French company a 25% stake implicates that Russia now has a powerful agent in the European Union that can help the Kremlin strike bilateral energy deals. Gazprom holds other joint ventures with companies in Germany (BASF and Ruhrgas), Italy (ENI and Enel) and Britain (BP).<sup>33</sup>

Denmark has begun to see the benefits of the environmental change as Greenland is experiencing a farming boom. Its soil now yields broccoli, hay, and potatoes and less ice allows it to exploit fish, timber, and minerals. However, this new source of wealth, especially in the energy sector, has moved Greenland to petition Denmark for political independence while Denmark wishes to maintain control of the region.<sup>34</sup> This scenario provides an example of the changing legal conditions which shape the claims and ambitions of the Arctic countries plus the lack of procedural measures.

Canada claims it has full rights over the parts of the Northwest Passage that pass through its territory. It has announced the creation of two Arctic military bases and launched a satellite surveillance system that locates ships trespassing its waters. Canada also plans to invest five billion USD in eight new icebreakers to protect its interests.<sup>35</sup>

The United States has not ratified the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the principal treaty on maritime rights. The US argues that by ratifying the treaty it would cede too much of its sovereignty and that customary international law is enough to protect its interests. However, without ratification, the United States cannot claim any rights over Alaska's northern coast beyond its economic zone.

<sup>30</sup> "The great melt," on *The Economist: the World in 2008*, January 2008, p. 150.

<sup>31</sup> "Shtokman Project," (June 29, 2008: <http://www.gazprom.com/eng/articles/article21712.shtml>).

<sup>32</sup> "Behind the Gazprom-Total deal: beware Russians bearing gifts," *The Economist*, July 2007 (March 27, 2008: [http://www.economist.com/business/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=9495268](http://www.economist.com/business/displaystory.cfm?story_id=9495268)).

<sup>33</sup> Ibid.

<sup>34</sup> Jesper Hansen, "Greenland on the Self-Rule Road," May 7, 2008, (May 20, 2008: [http://arctic-council.org/article/2008/5/greenland\\_on\\_the\\_self-rule-road](http://arctic-council.org/article/2008/5/greenland_on_the_self-rule-road)).

<sup>35</sup> Scott Borgerson G., op. cit.

Countries have failed to fully articulate its claims. Russia has exerted the most pressure by planting its flag, dumping nuclear waste, and making territorial claims based on the Lomonosov Ridge which extends all the way to North America allowing Denmark and Canada to make similar claims.<sup>36</sup> Norway has begun shipping gas from its field in the Barents Sea and Denmark and Canada are voicing possession rights.

Along with the disputes about ownership, Industrial development in the Arctic poses human rights challenges as it homes 40 to 50 distinct indigenous groups.<sup>37</sup> These groups, specifically the 160,000 Inuit population, claim their right of self-determination in order to protect their societies and economy.

Arctic issues have been ignored in the large scheme of problem solving efforts. The most recent statement on the Arctic was created in 1994 and fails to even address the retreating ice phenomenon. There are no political or legal structures that can regulate recent developments. The Arctic Council exists but it is limited to environmental issues and even prohibited from addressing security matters. It was created by The Ottawa Declaration of 1996 as means to provide cooperation among the Arctic States and the Arctic Indigenous communities to target mainly development and environmental issues. The council is conformed of the five Arctic Circle countries mentioned above plus Sweden, Finland and Iceland.<sup>38</sup>

The International Polar Year is a program co-sponsored by the International Council of Science and the World Meteorological Organization programmed to run from March 2007 through March 2009. It involves more than 60 nations and 200 research projects that attempt to predict where the great melt will lead.<sup>39</sup> This special attention to Arctic Issues is a positive way to provide ground for discussion and pressure member states to attend the problem within the Security Council.

The UNCLOS contains structural and enforcement elements that deal with some of the issues but falls short in resolving the new challenges. The UNCLOS adopted in 1982, “is an unprecedented attempt by the international community to regulate all aspects of the resources of the sea and uses of the ocean.”<sup>40</sup> Specifically, it gives jurisdiction to the five Arctic Circle countries over a 322km “economic zone” stretching beyond its coast. Such jurisdiction includes: navigational rights, territorial sea limits, economic jurisdiction, legal status of

---

<sup>36</sup> Richard A. Lovett, op. cit.

<sup>37</sup> Fjelheim S. Rune and John B. Henriksen, “Oil and Gas Exploitation on Arctic Indigenous Peoples’ Territories,” *Journal of Indigenous Peoples Rights*, No. 4, 2006, p. 5.

<sup>38</sup> Arctic Council, “About Arctic Council” October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2007, (20 March 2008: <http://arctic-council.org/article/about>).

<sup>39</sup> National Snow and Ice Data Center, (May 11, 2008: <http://nsidc.org/ipy/>).

<sup>40</sup> Oceans and Law of the Sea, “The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,” (May 11, 2008: [http://www.un.org/Depts/los/convention\\_agreements/convention\\_historical\\_perspective.htm#Historical%20Perspective](http://www.un.org/Depts/los/convention_agreements/convention_historical_perspective.htm#Historical%20Perspective)).

resources on the seabed beyond the limits of national jurisdiction and passage of ships through narrow straits. The Convention also calls for conservation, protection and research of marine environment and attempts to provide procedural ground for the settlement over disputes between the involved countries.

In 1982, a treaty under the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) designed to facilitate the UNCLOS proposed rules on claims for extended territorial waters. The treaty proposed that countries submit its claims within ten years of its signing. Canada's claims are due on 2013 and Denmark's on 2014; the US never ratified the treaty.<sup>41</sup> Stating official claims is an essential first step; however, the treaty fails to address the bulk of the problem and only delays it for another six years.

Russia's case provides an example of the lack of information and legal international frameworks. In 2001, Russia submitted a claim to the United Nations over an extension of its economic zone. Russia argues that its continental shelf stretches out into the Arctic, providing them legal right over 740,000 km<sup>2</sup> of Arctic waters. The UN rejected this annexation attempt claiming that it needed more evidence.<sup>42</sup> The international community cannot afford to let such claims hang unresolved. Unilateral action, as already observed, will only complicate matters to this economic and political boil point.

The complexity of the cold rush comes from its multifaceted character. Environmental, geopolitical, human rights, commercial issues along with private interests come together in this quickly developing new conflict that represents security issues specifically among the Arctic Circle countries. The creation of a Convention, or a legally abiding commission accepted by all Arctic Circle countries designed to define boundaries, create maritime borders, regulate vessels, control oil and gas exploration and exploitation and reduce the environmental footprint is in urgent need. The concentrated wealth ready to be exploitable within the next year increases the pressure on plausible action plans. The United States must ratify the UNCLOS as a first sign of cooperation and then focus on creating multilateral agreements. A solution to the Arctic conquest cannot afford to fall into a political vacuum. Continuing delay in regulatory concerns can only further unilateral action and increase the pressure in the security realm.

The Security Council is the most capable international body to deal with this unprecedented issue. The rush for territorial claims, new resources and new sources of income represent challenges to security, as boundaries will need to be redrawn. The Council needs a resolution that provides mechanisms to gather

---

<sup>41</sup> Oceans and Law of the Sea, "Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf: purpose, functions and sessions," (May 11, 2008: [http://www.un.org/depts/los/clcs\\_new/commission\\_purpose.htm#Purpose](http://www.un.org/depts/los/clcs_new/commission_purpose.htm#Purpose)).

<sup>42</sup> "Gold Rush Under the ice: Russia wants a vast slice of the Arctic", *The Economist*, August 2007, (April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008: [http://www.economist.com/world/europe/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=9607005](http://www.economist.com/world/europe/displaystory.cfm?story_id=9607005)).

information, outline concerning issues, identify involved members, outline boundaries, create a regulating body, impose sanctions and is capable of dealing with new environmental developments and demands. Efficiency, applicability, viability and transparency must be included into the calculus of a first Security Council Resolution. That's why, some, if not, the most important questions to which de Council must respond are:

1. How can the provisions already stated in the UNCLOS be incorporated and modified into a resolution in order to avoid incongruence?
2. What are the best mechanisms to avoid unilateral action while recognizing possession of certain rights to involved countries and under what terms will these rights be determined?
3. In what way will the resolution protect the Arctic environment to avoid further release of greenhouse gasses and how will it cooperate with existing environmental UN bodies that are already targeting this problem?
4. Who will be in possession of the new trade routes and how will the countries or private enterprises benefit from the new open passages?
5. How can a resolution limit the involvement of oil and gas companies and prevent the Arctic conquest from becoming a foreign policy tool amongst involved countries?

## Bibliography and recommended readings

“Behind the Gazprom-Total deal: beware Russians bearing gifts,” *The Economist*, July 2007 (March 27, 2008: [http://www.economist.com/business/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=9495268](http://www.economist.com/business/displaystory.cfm?story_id=9495268)).

“Gold Rush Under the ice: Russia wants a vast slice of the Arctic”, *The Economist*, August 2007, (April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008: [http://www.economist.com/world/europe/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=9607005](http://www.economist.com/world/europe/displaystory.cfm?story_id=9607005)).

“The great melt,” on *The Economist: the World in 2008*, January 2008, pp. 149-150.

ARCTIC COUNCIL, “About Arctic Council” October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2007, (20 March 2008: <http://arctic-council.org/article/about>).

BORGERSON G., Scott, “Arctic Meltdown”, *Foreign Affairs.*, Num. II, Vol. 87.

GAZPROM, “Shtokman Project,” (June 29, 2008: <http://www.gazprom.com/eng/articles/article21712.shtml>).

HANSEN, Jesper, “Greenland on the Self-Rule Road,” May 7, 2008, (May 20, 2008: [http://arctic-council.org/article/2008/5/greenland\\_on\\_the\\_self-rule-road](http://arctic-council.org/article/2008/5/greenland_on_the_self-rule-road)).

LOVETT, Richard A., “Arctic oil rush sparks battles over seafloor,” *National Geographic News*, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2007 (March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2008: <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2007/08/070823-arctic-oil.html>).

NASA, “Remarkable' drop in Arctic sea ice raises questions”, September 25, 2007, (May 12, 2008: [http://www.nasa.gov/vision/earth/environment/arctic\\_minimum.html](http://www.nasa.gov/vision/earth/environment/arctic_minimum.html)).

NATIONAL SNOW AND ICE CENTER, “Arctic Sea Ice Shatters All Previous Record Lows”, October 2007, (March 20, 2008: [http://nsidc.org/news/press/2007\\_seaiceminimum/20071001\\_pressrelease.html](http://nsidc.org/news/press/2007_seaiceminimum/20071001_pressrelease.html)).

NATIONAL SNOW AND ICE DATA CENTER, (May 11, 2008: <http://nsidc.org/ipy/>).

OCEANS AND LAW OF THE SEA, “Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf: purpose, functions and sessions,” (May 11, 2008:

[http://www.un.org/depts/los/clcs\\_new/commission\\_purpose.htm#Purpose](http://www.un.org/depts/los/clcs_new/commission_purpose.htm#Purpose)).

OCEANS AND LAW OF THE SEA, “The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,” (May 11, 2008: [http://www.un.org/Depts/los/convention\\_agreements/convention\\_historical\\_perspective.htm#Historical%20Perspective](http://www.un.org/Depts/los/convention_agreements/convention_historical_perspective.htm#Historical%20Perspective)).

ROACH, John, “Arctic melt opens Northwest passage,” *National Geographic News*, September 17, 2007 (March 30, 2008: <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2007/09/070917-northwest-passage.html>).

RUNE, Fjelheim S. and John B. Henriksen, “Oil and Gas Exploitation on Arctic Indigenous Peoples’ Territories,” *Journal of Indigenous Peoples Rights*, No. 4, 2006, p. 5.