



AUSTRIA

Population: 8.3 million

Capital city: Vienna

Major language: German

Major religion: Christianity

Life expectancy: 80 yrs

Gross National Income: \$37,680 (per person in 2008)

Viewpoint on nuclear weapons: Austria does not have nuclear weapons. Austria thinks a world without nuclear weapons must be a priority for the Security Council. Austria also thinks that the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (an international agreement to stop the spread of nuclear weapons) should be strengthened and that countries with nuclear weapons must reduce their arsenals (the number of weapons they have). Austria does not use nuclear energy to produce electricity.



BURKINA FASO

Population: 15.2 million

Capital city: Ouagadougou

Major languages: French, Mòoré, Dioula

Major religions: Indigenous beliefs, Islam, Christianity

Life expectancy: 52 yrs

Gross National Income: \$1,160 (per person in 2008)

Viewpoint on nuclear weapons: Burkina Faso does not have nuclear weapons. Burkina Faso has signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (an international agreement to stop the spread of nuclear weapons) and has committed to not develop nuclear weapons. Burkina Faso opposes the spread of nuclear weapons and supports the fact that Africa is now a nuclear-weapons-free zone, which means that all African countries have agreed to not have nuclear weapons. Burkina Faso thinks that countries have the right to have nuclear energy plants to produce energy for peaceful purposes. Nuclear energy plants don't emit CO2 and some people argue that switching to nuclear energy could help reduce the impact of climate change.



CHINA

Population: 1.32 billion

Capital city: Beijing

Major language: Mandarin Chinese

Major religions: Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Taoism

Life expectancy: 73 yrs

Gross National Income: \$6,020 (per person in 2008)

Viewpoint on nuclear weapons: China has approximately 240 nuclear weapons. According to the Chinese President, Hu Jintao, China only has nuclear weapons for defence purposes. China has pledged not to be the first to use nuclear weapons if there is war. It has also pledged not to use the weapons against a country which doesn't have nuclear weapons. China has signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (an international agreement to stop the spread of nuclear weapons) and thinks that nuclear proliferation (more countries getting nuclear weapons) should be stopped. China thinks that the countries with the largest number of nuclear weapons should lead the way by reducing their arsenals first. The countries with smaller arsenals should then follow. The aim should be for a world free of nuclear weapons. China thinks that countries have the right to have nuclear energy plants to produce electricity for peaceful purposes. Nuclear energy plants don't emit CO2 and some people argue that switching to nuclear energy could help reduce the impact of climate change.



COSTA RICA

Population: 4.5 million

Capital city: San Jose

Major language: Spanish

Major religion: Christianity

Life expectancy: 79 yrs

Gross National Income: \$10,950 (per person in 2008)

Viewpoint on nuclear weapons: Costa Rica does not have nuclear weapons. Costa Rica has signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (an international agreement to stop the spread of nuclear weapons) and has committed to not develop nuclear weapons. Costa Rica is against nuclear proliferation (more countries getting nuclear weapons). Costa Rica does not use nuclear energy to produce electricity.



CROATIA

Population: 4.4 million

Capital city: Zagreb

Major language: Croatian

Major religion: Christianity

Life expectancy: 76 yrs

Gross National Income: \$18,420 (per person in 2008)

Viewpoint on nuclear weapons: Croatia has signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (an international agreement to stop the spread of nuclear weapons) and has committed to not develop nuclear weapons. Croatia is against nuclear proliferation (more countries getting nuclear weapons). Croatia thinks it is very important to stop the spread of nuclear weapons and supports stricter international controls from the UN's nuclear watchdog – the IAEA. Croatia thinks that countries have the right to have nuclear energy plants to produce electricity for peaceful purposes. Nuclear energy plants don't emit CO2 and some people argue that switching to nuclear energy could help reduce the impact of climate change.



FRANCE

Population: 62 million

Capital city: Paris

Major language: French

Major religion: Christianity

Life expectancy: 81 yrs

Gross National Income: \$34,400 (per person in 2008)

Viewpoint on nuclear weapons: France has approximately 300 nuclear weapons. France has signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (an international agreement to stop the spread of nuclear weapons) and has committed to reduce the number of its nuclear weapons. France uses nuclear energy to produce electricity and thinks that all countries have the right to have nuclear energy plants to produce electricity for peaceful purposes. Nuclear energy plants don't emit CO2 and some people argue that switching to nuclear energy could help reduce the impact of climate change. However, France argues that strict controls, such as inspections from the UN's nuclear watchdog – the IAEA – should be in place for nuclear energy plants. Inspections can prevent countries that already have such plants from developing nuclear weapons. France thinks that strong sanctions such as trade restrictions should be imposed against countries that don't follow the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and develop nuclear weapons in secret.



JAPAN

Population: 127.7 million

Capital city: Tokyo

Major language: Japanese

Major religions: Shintoism, Buddhism

Life expectancy: 83 yrs

Gross National Income: \$35,220 (per person in 2008)

Viewpoint on nuclear weapons: Japan does not have nuclear weapons and has signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (an international agreement to stop the spread of nuclear weapons). According to the Japanese Prime Minister, Yukio Hatoyama, Japan has a special moral responsibility as it is the only country ever to suffer nuclear bombings (the US dropped nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki during the Second World War). Japan supports the establishment of nuclear-weapons-free zones which means that all countries in a region (e.g. Southeast Asia) agree that they will not have nuclear weapons. Japan encourages countries with nuclear weapons to reduce their arsenals (the number of nuclear weapons they have). Japan is committed to taking a lead in the work on international agreements that reduce the number of nuclear weapons and stop countries from getting nuclear weapons.



LIBYA

Population: 6.2 million

Capital city: Tripoli

Major language: Arabic

Major religion: Islam

Life expectancy: 74 yrs

Gross National Income: \$15,630 (per person in 2008)

Viewpoint on nuclear weapons: In 2003 Libya voluntarily stopped work on the nuclear bomb it was on the verge of producing. Libya thinks it therefore deserves assistance in developing nuclear energy for peaceful purposes (e.g to produce electricity). Libya has signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (an international agreement to stop the spread of nuclear weapons). Libya thinks the Middle East must become a nuclear-weapon-free zone (where no country has nuclear weapons) and urges Israel to allow the UN's nuclear watchdog – the IAEA – to inspect the facilities that experts believe are used to produce and store nuclear weapons. Libya thinks the IAEA should monitor all countries without exceptions.



MEXICO

Population: 106.3 million

Capital city: Mexico City

Major language: Spanish

Major religion: Christianity

Life expectancy: 75 yrs

Gross National Income: \$14,270 (per person in 2008)

Viewpoint on nuclear weapons: Mexico does not have nuclear weapons. Mexico has signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (an international agreement to stop the spread of nuclear weapons) and has committed to not develop nuclear weapons. Mexico is against nuclear proliferation (more countries getting nuclear weapons). Mexico thinks that the ultimate goal should be a world free of nuclear weapons. Mexico has one energy plant which uses nuclear energy to produce electricity. Mexico thinks that all countries have the right to have nuclear energy plants for peaceful purposes but that this should happen under strict control from the UN's nuclear watchdog – the IAEA. Nuclear energy plants don't emit CO2 and some people argue that switching to nuclear energy could help reduce the impact of climate change.



RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Population: 141.8 million

Capital city: Moscow

Major language: Russian

Major religions: Christianity, Islam

Life expectancy: 68 yrs

Gross National Income: \$15,630 (per person in 2008)

Viewpoint on nuclear weapons: The Russian Federation has the largest number of nuclear weapons in the world – approximately 13,000. The Russian Federation has signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (an international agreement to stop the spread of nuclear weapons) and has agreed, along with the United States, to greatly reduce the number of its nuclear weapons. The Russian Federation is committed to continuing negotiations with the US about further reducing the number of nuclear weapons it has. The Russian Federation uses nuclear energy to produce electricity and thinks that all countries have the right to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes but that this should happen under strict control from the UN's nuclear watchdog – the IAEA. Nuclear energy plants don't emit CO2 and some people argue that switching to nuclear energy could help reduce the impact of climate change. The Russian Federation thinks that countries which use nuclear energy to produce electricity should follow international agreements and not develop nuclear weapons.



TURKEY

Population: 73.9 million

Capital city: Ankara

Major language: Turkish

Major religion: Islam

Life expectancy: 72 yrs

Gross National Income: \$13,770 (per person in 2008)

Viewpoint on nuclear weapons: Turkey does not have nuclear weapons. Turkey has signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (an international agreement to stop the spread of nuclear weapons) and has committed to not develop nuclear weapons. Turkey opposes nuclear proliferation (more countries getting nuclear weapons). Turkey thinks that international agreements on reducing the number of nuclear weapons countries have are crucial in moving towards a nuclear-free world. According to the Turkish Prime Minister, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Turkey will spare no effort in continuing to work towards this goal. Turkey does not use nuclear energy to produce electricity but thinks that all countries have the right to have nuclear energy plants for peaceful purposes. However, this should happen under strict control from the UN's nuclear watchdog – the IAEA. Nuclear energy plants don't emit CO2 and some people argue that switching to nuclear energy could help reduce the impact of climate change.



UGANDA

Population: 31.7 million

Capital city: Kampala

Major languages: English, Swahili

Major religions: Christianity, Islam

Life expectancy: 53 yrs

Gross National Income: \$1,140 (per person in 2008)

Viewpoint on nuclear weapons: Uganda does not have nuclear weapons. Uganda has signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (an international agreement to stop the spread of nuclear weapons) and has committed to not develop nuclear weapons. Uganda thinks that countries with nuclear weapons should lead the way and start reducing the number of weapons they have, as other countries only want nuclear weapons because some countries already have them. The President of Uganda, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, has said that Africa is not interested in nuclear weapons (Africa is a nuclear-weapon-free zone) but in nuclear energy to produce electricity in order to meet Africa's future energy needs. Nuclear energy plants don't emit CO₂ and some people argue that switching to nuclear energy could help reduce the impact of climate change.



UNITED KINGDOM

Population: 61.4 million

Capital city: London

Major language: English

Major religion: Christianity

Life expectancy: 79 yrs

Gross National Income: \$36,130 (per person in 2008)

Viewpoint on nuclear weapons: The United Kingdom has approximately 185 nuclear weapons. The UK has taken major steps towards reducing the number of nuclear weapons it has and argues that it is keeping only the absolute minimum of nuclear weapons needed for national security. The UK has also committed to reduce its nuclear submarine fleet. The UK thinks that strong sanctions should be imposed against countries that don't follow the international agreements and develop nuclear weapons in secret. The UK uses nuclear energy to produce electricity.



USA

Population: 304.1 million

Capital city: Washington DC

Major language: English

Major religion: Christianity

Life expectancy: 78 yrs

Gross National Income: \$46,970 (per person in 2008)

Viewpoint on nuclear weapons: The United States has approximately 9,400 nuclear weapons. The US has, in agreement with the Russian Federation, greatly reduced the number of its nuclear weapons. The US is committed to continuing negotiations with the Russian Federation about further reductions in their nuclear arsenals. The US thinks that all countries have the right to use nuclear energy plants for peaceful purposes. Nuclear energy plants don't emit CO2 and some people argue that switching to nuclear energy could help reduce the impact of climate change. The US also thinks the countries with nuclear weapons have a responsibility to reduce the number of their nuclear weapons. The US has committed to the ultimate goal of a world free of nuclear weapons.



Vietnam

Population: 86.2 million

Capital city: Hanoi

Major language: Vietnamese

Major religion: Buddhism

Life expectancy: 74 yrs

Gross National Income: \$2,700 (per person in 2008)

Viewpoint on nuclear weapons: Vietnam does not have nuclear weapons. Vietnam supports all international efforts to stop the spread of nuclear weapons and reduce the number of nuclear weapons that currently exist. Vietnam thinks that the countries with the highest number of nuclear weapons must take the lead in reducing the number of nuclear weapons. Vietnam also thinks that the UN's nuclear watchdog – the IAEA – should be given a more important role. Vietnam supports setting up a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Southeast Asia which would mean that all countries in the region agree that they will not have nuclear weapons. Vietnam thinks that all countries have the right to use nuclear energy plants for peaceful purposes, and is planning to build its first nuclear power plant in 2015. Nuclear energy plants don't emit CO2 and some people argue that switching to nuclear energy could help reduce the impact of climate change. According to the President of Vietnam, Nguyen Minh Triet, the Vietnamese people have suffered greatly from wars and therefore pledge their strong support to create a world free of nuclear weapons to make the world a safer and more peaceful place.