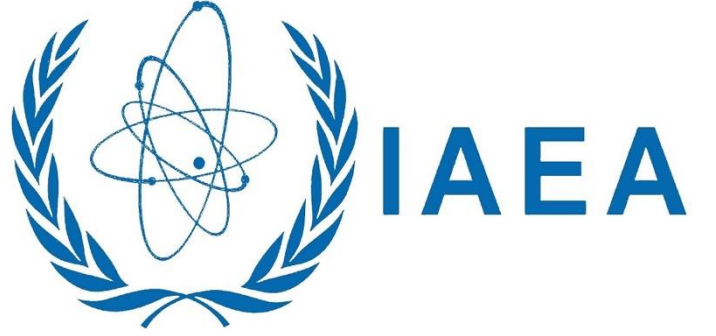


**TBMUN '19**



**Committee:** International Atomic Energy Agency

**Topic:** Addressing the growing concern of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East

**Chairs:** Elif Ataç & Özcan Yüksel



## General Overview

For the first time in the human history Nuclear weapons were the opening shot of the World War II. Since then, nuclear weapons have been the most destructive weapons ever created. It abuses every living creatures' rights. Opponent to its damages, since the twentieth century it became the symbol of the power.

The political power is now based on the countries that possess nuclear weapons. This situation continues in the Middle East. Nuclear weapons were came out to history scene in the Middle East with the Gulf War which occurred between Iraq and Kuwait. Middle East countries accused of developing and producing nuclear weapons, as they are pursuing research on uranium enrichment. Now the tension that caused by nuclear weapons in the Middle East still continues.



United Nations took action against the thread of growing nuclear power in 1978 and they established treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons as a result of these events. This treaty was designated for maintaining the peaceful usage of nuclear energy and prevent the any member states states from the damage that can be caused by a nuclear weapons. Of the 17 countries in the Middle East 16 signed NPT with the exception of Israel. Israel has not declared officially that they have nuclear power. The other very important of United Nations involvement is Nuclear -weapon-free zone agreement. This agreement work up for increasing the participation to the idea of non-proliferation disarmament of nuclear energy. Each state-party adopts comprehensive safeguards administered by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which verifies that states-parties are not pursuing nuclear weapons illicitly.



## Glossory for the Topic

**Nuclear Proliferation:** As described as the “Nuclear Proliferation is a term used to describe the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons-applicable nuclear technology and information, to nations which are not recognized as Nuclear Weapon States by the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons.” on the us legal dictionary.

**Treaty on Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons:** Treaty on Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is a global treaty that guarantees; non of the member states will be use nuclear weapons against to other member states and this treaty also promote peaceful use of nuclear weapons.

**Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD):** It is a word that used for describing nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons. Since that time others have tried to alter the definition to include any weapon that disperses radioactivity or causes mass panic.

**Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone (WMDFZ):** WMDFZ is defined as an agreement which a group of states has freely established by treaty or convention that bans the use, development, or deployment of weapons of mass destruction in a given area.

**Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT):** CTBT is a multilateral treaty that bans all nuclear explosions, for both civilian and military purposes, in all environments. It was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 September 1996, but has not entered into force, as eight specific states have not ratified the treaty.

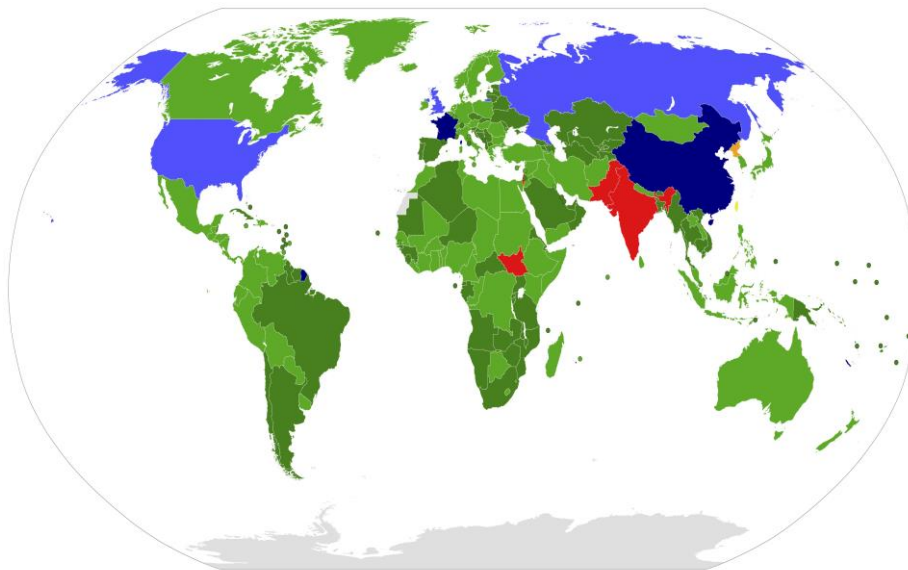
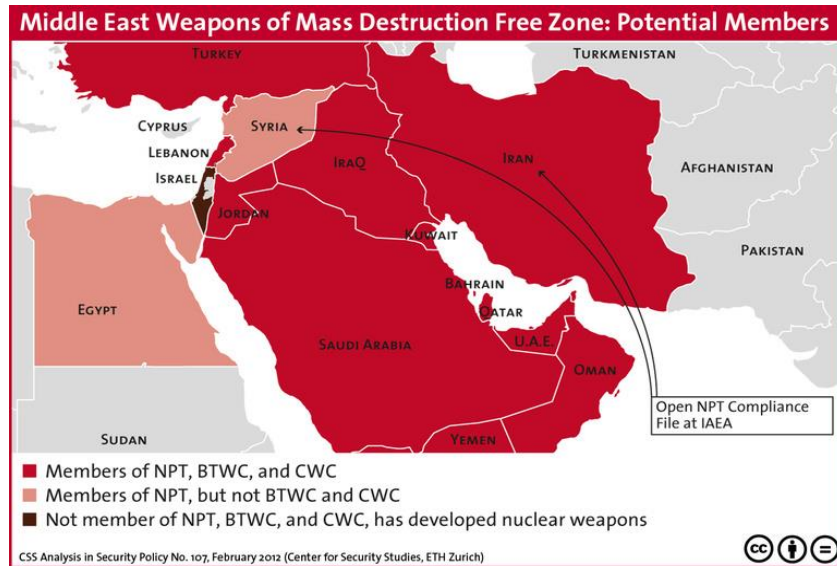
**Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT):** FMCT is a proposed international treaty to forbid the further manufacturing of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other explosive devices. The treaty has not been negotiated and its terms persisted to be defined.

**Nuclear Weapon Free-zone:** General Assembly resolution **3472 B (1975)** defines a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone as

*...any zone recognized as such by the General Assembly of the United Nations, which any group of States, in the free exercises of their sovereignty, has established by virtue of a treaty or convention whereby:*

*(a) The statute of total absence of nuclear weapons to which the zone shall be subject, including the procedure for the delimitation of the zone, is defined;*

*(b) An international system of verification and control is established to guarantee compliance with the obligations deriving from that statute.*



### Participation in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

- Recognized nuclear weapon state ratifiers
- Recognized nuclear weapon state acceders
- Other ratifiers
- Other acceders or successors
- Withdrawn
- Non-signatory
- Unrecognized state, abiding by acceders



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## Past Events and Actions

**Gulf War(1990-1991):** On August 2, 1990, Iraqi forces invaded Kuwait. The government of Iraq declared that Kuwait is one of the Iraq's province and they began the militarization operation. Alarmed by these actions, fellow Arab powers such as Saudi Arabia and Egypt called on the United States and other Western nations to interfere. On November 29 the UN Security Council allowed the use of force against Iraq if it did not withdraw from Kuwait by January 15, 1991. Iraq withdraw from the Kuwait lands.

At the end nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons) and all missiles with ranges exceeding 90 miles (150 km). We should take into consideration International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) reliability has influenced the behaviors of Iran and Libya, the relationship between the credibility of the international organizations and their ability to contribute world peace.

**Iran-Iraq War(1980-1988):** Iraq aimed to establish itself as a gulf power by neutralizing its closest rival Iran. Iraq invaded Iran in seven areas to protect its own oil fields and cut the strategic road. This war shocked the world with its use of chemical weapons.

**Syrian Civil War:** Conflict in Syria is one of the most important consequences of Arab Spring. Revolutionary protest have been occurring since 2011. This cruel situation first occurred in the southern town of Daraa where majority of people are Shia. Syrian governments open fire and irrupt to streets with tanks in the forthcoming days. Overtime opposite side began protecting themselves by using weapons. In 2018 there were claims that Syrian government used chemical weapons on their own citizens however the syrian government refuse all the arguments.

**Conflict between IAEA and Iran:** It past years after the asserted actions to improve a nuclear weapon. International Atomic Energy Agency did not satisfy about the Iran's intensions. That because Iran is full of rich uranium reserves. Inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the global nuclear continuously monitor Iran's declared nuclear sites and also verify that no fissile material is moved covertly to a secret location to build a bomb. Iran also agreed to the continuation of the UN arms embargo on the country for up to five years, although it could end earlier if the IAEA is satisfied that its nuclear programme is entirely peaceful.

**Iraq Decommissioning Project:** Iraq was hugely effected by Gulf war and there are number sites in Iraq which have been used for nuclear activities and they are suffering from physical damage. IAEA took help call from Iraq for IAEA's assistance to detect efforts for bringing order and control to the radioactive scrap throughout Iraq.





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## Timeline of Events

**December 13th, 1938** Nuclear fission was discovered.

**August 1942** Manhattan Project established in US

**August 6th, 1945** US released first nuclear bomb called “Little Boy” on the Japanese city of Hiroshima.

**August 9th, 1945** US released second nuclear bomb on the Japanese city of Nagasaki.

**November 1st, 1952** US tested the first hydrogen bomb.

**July 5th, 1955** Israel signed a peaceful nuclear weapon agreement with US.

**October 16th, 1964** China conducted its first nuclear test

**July 1st, 1968** Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) was released.

**September 30th, 1986** Israel’s nuclear programme revealed.

**July 8th, 1996** The International Court of Justice said nuclear weapons are illegal.

**September 19th, 1996** Member States could not agree on Comprehensive Nuclear -Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT).

**September 16th, 2002** Iraq agreed to an inspection for Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs) in accordance to the UN Security Council Resolution 1441

**November 8th, 2002** UN Security Council passes Resolution 1441

**December 7th, 2002** Iraq submitted a report stating that it supplied no WMDs, as part of their inspection was to produce a full declaration of it’s current status regarding producing weaponry.

**January 16th, 2003** Inspectors from IAEA and UNMOVIC find 12 chemical warheads in Iraq.

**March 18th, 2003** Inspectors from IAEA and UNMOVIC withdraw from Iraq.

**March 20th, 2003** The United States began to invade Iraq, starting “The Iraq War”

**November 2003** Iran agrees to pause uranium enrichment and accepts IAEA suspension.

**December 26th, 2006** The U.N. Security Council votes to impose sanctions against Iran for failing to suspend its nuclear program.

**January 12th, 2014** Iran stated that it will start destroying it’s nuclear stockpile later in the year.

**March 27th, 2017** Nuclear ban treaty negotiations began.



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## **Related Major Parties and Their Views**

### **United States of America**

The United States has strong alliances with Saudi Arabia, Israel and NATO members which are based countries in Middle East. Having been the first country to release a nuclear bomb, and being one of the countries part of the NTP, the United States has a big say in nuclear proliferation not only globally but also in the Middle East. The USA has always had a resolute position against nuclear proliferation in any country or any region. They have shown it when The US was the main party in going forward on the Iraq War in 2003. They were a stern believer that nuclear weaponry should not be allowed in the Middle East to secure the safety of their inhabitants.

### **Israel**

Israel is one of the 4 UN member states, which have not yet signed the NPT treaty, despite voting in favour for it in the UN General Assembly. Israel has been known to possess a high number of nuclear weapons in their country. However, Israel did not want to be the first nation to introduce nuclear weapons to the Middle East and start an arms race so it created a policy of “nuclear opacity” and Israel is neither denying nor approving this fact. The state of Israel has signed the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) but refused to sign the Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT) because it would invalidate the possibility to continue nuclear opacity policy.

### **Iraq**

Having been the part of the Iraq War in 2003, Iraq plays a big role in the question of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East. Iraq has been questioned several times by the UN Security Council for possessing nuclear weaponry. It was asked in the UN Security Council Resolution 1441 that Iraq follow an inspection in their country. The inspection was successful and found 12 chemical warheads, where 11 were empty and 32 missiles. Furthermore, Iraq later submitted report stating that it did not possess any nuclear weapon or weapon of mass destruction. In 2003, Iraq agreed to destroy its missile stock, but there is no confirmation that this did occur.

### **Iran**

Iran as the largest Shiite Muslim country has felt threatened by Sunni Muslim majorities. Iran believes that it's right to national sovereignty as supreme and respects the sovereign rights of all countries to self-defense, as agreed under the UN Charter. In 2002, it was discussed in the IEAE whether Iran has access to uranium enrichment facilities, and therefore is building nuclear weapons. However, this would be against the NPT, which Iran has signed. Besides, Iran is still questionable to possess such nuclear weapons with no international authorization. Iran also stand as the centre of nuclear weaponry in the Middle East, as many surrounding member states have admitted that if Iran comes clean on possessing nuclear weaponry, they will follow in their path and this could cause a dangerous increase in nuclear weaponry in the Middle East.



### **League of Arab States:**

League of Arab States comprised of 22 Arab states are united in their condemnation of Israel having nuclear weapons and United Nation reluctance to press Israel to abandon nuclear weapons or even condemn them. The government of Egypt (a member state of League of Arab States) has long spearheaded condemnation of Israel's nuclear program and a Weapons Free Middle East.

### **European Union:**

The European Union is one of the strongest supporters of the founding of a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (NWFZ) in the Middle East. The EU generally supports and coordinates efforts with USA and IAEA and does not typically take direct action.

### **People's Republic of China**

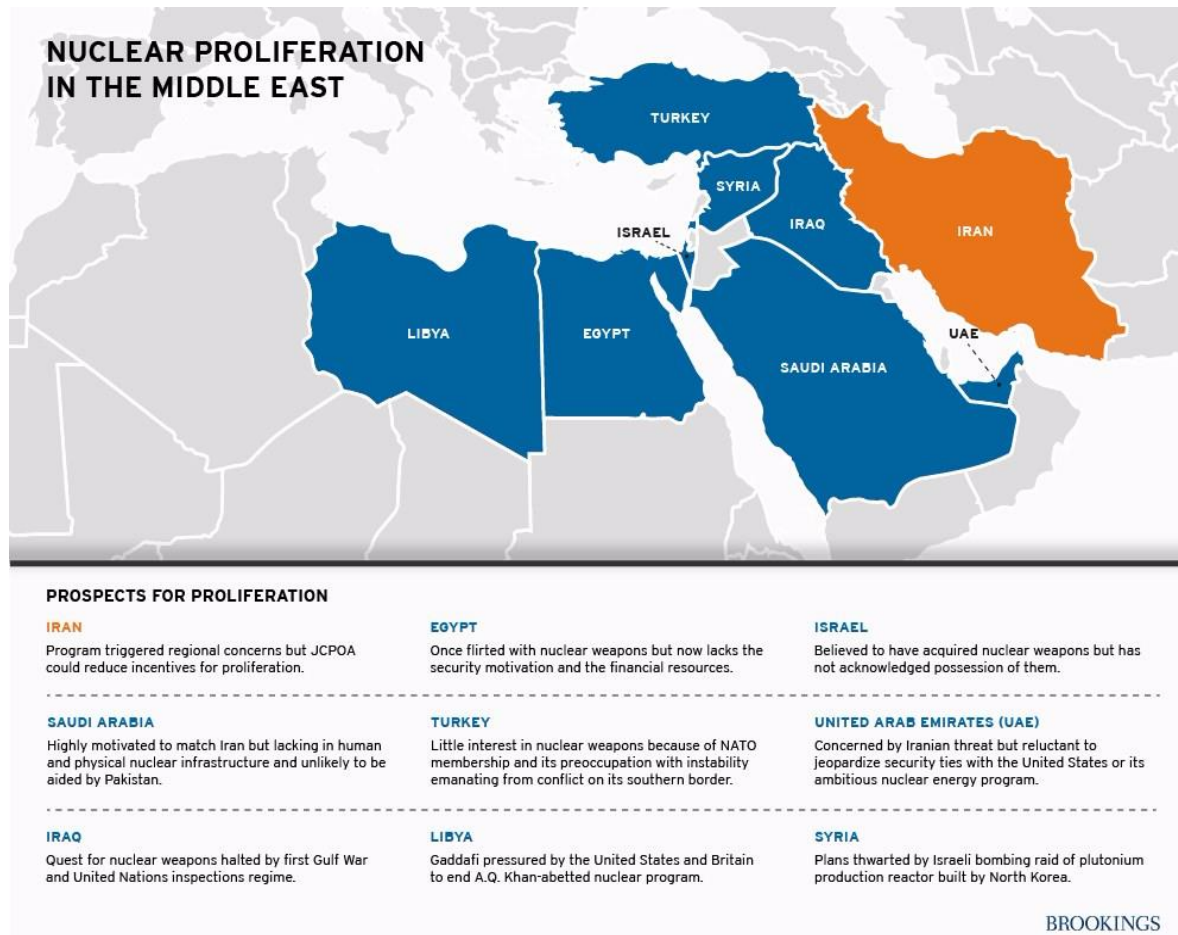
It has been proven that People's Republic of China had provided Islamic Republic of Iran with uranium hexafluoride and nuclear research facilities several years ago. They are keeping on to support Iran's nuclear program for the generation of nuclear energy.

### **Russian Federation**

Russia Federation is also a member state that supports Islamic Republic of Iran's nuclear program and wants to aid them in establishing their own indigenous source of nuclear power. At the same time Russia Federation has warned the United States about Donald Trump's (president of the US) administration not to pull out of the Iran nuclear deal - saying America's withdrawal would harm "predictability, security, stability and non-proliferation around the world."







## Issues To Be Considered

- 1) Is the sovereign right of all countries to self-defense, as agreed under the UN Charter more important than the stability of the already volatile middle east region?
- 2) Is nuclear disarmament a possible agenda?
- 3) Syrian civil war
- 4) Israel's approach to NPT
- 5) Should Nuclear weapons banned?



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## Resources:

<http://www-ns.iaea.org/projects/iraq/>

<https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/Timeline-of-the-Treaty-on-the-Non-Proliferation-of-Nuclear-Weapons-NPT>

[https://www.armscontrol.org/act/2005\\_05/Bunn\\_Rhineland](https://www.armscontrol.org/act/2005_05/Bunn_Rhineland)

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

[http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/67/28](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/67/28)

<https://www.un.org/en/conf/npt/2015/pdf/background%20info.pdf>

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

<https://fas.org/nuke/control/npt/>

<https://www.history.com/topics/middle-east/iran-iraq-war>

<https://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/default/files/publications/research/2017-07-27-WMDFZME.pdf>

<http://www.wikizero.biz/index.php?q=aHR0cHM6Ly9lbi53aWtpcGVkaWEub3JnL3dpa2kvTGltZDF9vZl9tb2Rlcm5fY29uZmxpY3RzX2luX3RoZV9NaWRkbGVfRWFzdA>

<http://edition.cnn.com/2013/10/30/world/meast/iraq-weapons-inspections-fast-facts/>

<http://www.iranintelligence.com/program-history>

<http://www.cfr.org/nonproliferation-arms-control-and-disarmament/global-nuclear-nonproliferation-regime/p18984>