

# RESEARCH REPORT



UNSC



## Introduction to the Head Chair

A good day to you, delegate! I hope that your day has been well and may it be well for the days to come. My name is Tham Jim Ren (but call me Daniel) and I am the **Head Chair for the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)**.

I am currently studying a Bachelor of Business (Honours) Finance and Economics course in Taylor's University, being in my first semester. I have significant interests in the fields of economics, international affairs and modern history, particularly the 20th century as the era of the Cold War. Occasionally, when time allows it, I would play a game of chess.

Simulations of the United Nations have ensnared my time for extracurricular activities ever since I've first participated in one. As a result, it had effectively formed into an integral part of my interests, ranging from the great game of geopolitics to the resolution of world problems. The former has been dominant for me, as the nations of the world form a checkerboard of sorts, with the intricate web of alliances and institutions formulating a chess-like complexity. As I became more acquainted with Model United Nations, I delved into what I had been interested in. As of this time, I am a fervent participant in crisis councils and councils that have topics with a grand geopolitical nature.

I highly look forward to this particular council, given its substantial nature in international security. Feel free to ask me any questions! Prepare up your research, prepare up your arguments and prepare up your confidence. I have lived by this quote in all that I do.

*"Ability without opportunity is nothing."*

-Napoleon Bonaparte, First French Emperor

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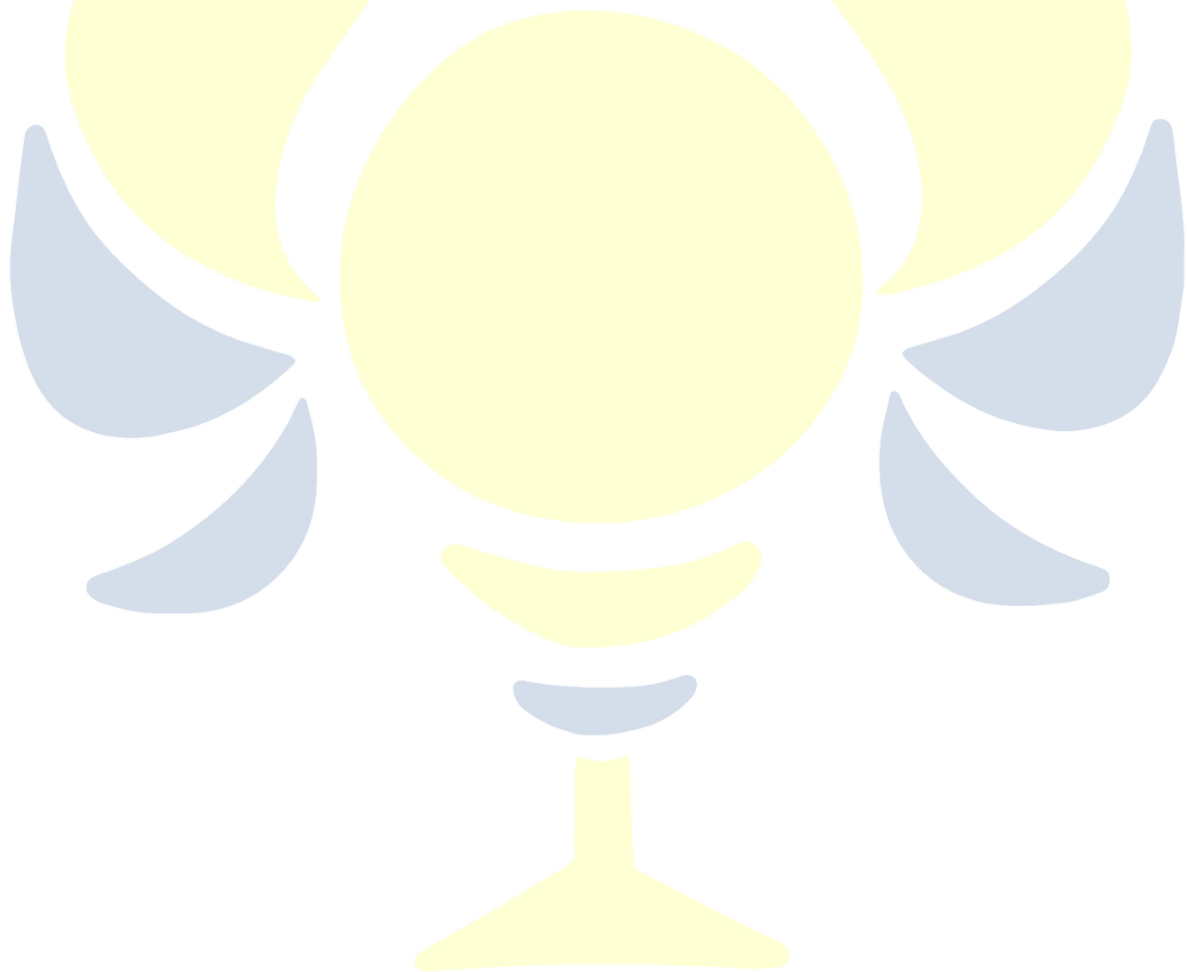
## Introduction to the Co-Chair

Hey, delegates! My name is **Amaad** and I'm currently studying A-levels in Dubai. I am the **Co-chair for the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)**. I specifically have interests in the medical field as I am a student of science. My interests include football, reading about the latest cars and technology and related fields.

Being a student of science, I heavily take interest in the Field of Medicine, and hope to pursue a career in it someday. I have taken part in quite a few MUN's in the past and since then I have developed the interest in taking part in as many MUN's as possible

I am looking forward to our upcoming MUN in the Champions Cup, and wishing you all the best for your respective Position Papers. See you there!

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### Position Papers Guidelines

Champions' Cup 2021 will be conducted using **HMUN Rules of Procedure**. As such, position papers are mandatory for this council, and will be required for awards consideration.

Position papers should include the following:

- Your country's stance on the topic
- Justifying your country's reason for its particular stance on the matter
- The actions your country has taken regarding the matter
- The recommendations your country would make regarding the matter

Position paper format requirements:

- Times New Roman, Font size 12,
- Justified alignment with 1.15 spacing, and page numbering
- You are allowed to bold, underline, and use italics,
- Maximum 3 pages for content,
- Please cite your position paper (APA 6th Edition, no need for in-text citation),
- Please include a Bibliography for your position paper, which is an additional page after your 3-page content,
- Your PP should not exceed a total of 4 pages with the content and Bibliography,
- Should your Bibliography exceed 1 page, then your PP should NOT exceed a total of 5 pages with the content and Bibliography,
- Please do not include your personal name, a country flag, a country's emblem or equivalent, and personal information,
- Please include the name of your country and your council's name (follow this example: "ITALY - UNSC") in the Header section of the document,
- When sending the PDF version of your PP, please name the PDF document accordingly (follow this example: "ITALY\_UNSC\_PP"),
- Please write the PP in English and no other language should be used in the writing of your position paper,
- If any of the above standards are not followed, it will result in a deduction of marks from your PP. Additionally, if your PP is not in PDF format, it will be rejected,
- Email the position papers to BOTH chairs [danieltham.jr02@gmail.com](mailto:danieltham.jr02@gmail.com) and [amaadsheikh14@gmail.com](mailto:amaadsheikh14@gmail.com)

Position papers are due on 11:59 PM (MYT), 19th June 2021. Requests for extensions with valid reasons can be made by contacting the chairs. Any other queries can be made through e-mail or Instagram DM. With that, have fun researching and see y'all in council!

## Introduction to the Council

The United Nations Security Council, or commonly known by its acronym “UNSC”, is one of the six organs of the United Nations empowered with the “*primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security*”. Its composition consists of fifteen (15) members, inclusive of five (5) permanent members. Other nation states may participate in the Security Council’s deliberations as observer states, pursuant to Article 31 of the Charter of the United Nations. Currently chaired by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, it may convene at any point of time whenever it is believed that international peace and security is under threat. Most notably, its decisions are legally binding pursuant to Article 25 of the Charter of the United Nations, whereby “*members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council in accordance with the present Charter*”.

Given its status as the organ of the United Nations with the highest level of authority, its powers and responsibilities are outlined in Chapter V, VI, VII, VIII and XII of the Charter of the United Nations. Notable powers and responsibilities include:

- Article 41

“...decid[ing] what measures not involving the use of armed force are to be employed to give effect to its decisions... includ[ing] complete or partial interruption of economic relations and of rail, sea, air, postal, telegraphic, radio, and other means of communication, and the severance of diplomatic relations.”

- Article 42

“...tak[ing] such action by air, sea, or land forces as may be necessary to maintain or restore international peace and security... includ[ing] demonstrations, blockade, and other operations by air, sea, or land forces of Members of the United Nations.”

- Article 53(1)

“...utiliz[ing] such regional arrangements or agencies for enforcement action under its authority.”

## **Introduction to the Topic: The Situation in Yemen – The Riyadh Agreement**

In 1970, Yemen's Shi'a ruling regime collapsed due to the Arab Socialist Movement's influence, and the country was separated into two regions, North Yemen and South Yemen. Both sides were reunited in 1990, this time under the governance of Ali Abdullah Saleh. The nation became increasingly unstable as a result of the government's corruption, the unfair treatment of the Houthi minority, and political turmoil. Yemen went through a political transition in 2011 in order to control the region, but failed to bring reconciliation, and thus the country has been in the midst of a destructive civil war. The global community has attempted to normalise the conflict in a number of ways, but none have succeeded in bringing peace. The nation was in the middle of the worst humanitarian crisis the world has ever witnessed.

### **History of the Yemeni Civil War**

Following the end of their reign, the Zaydis suffered discrimination and Sunnification (someone who follows the traditions and teachings of Muhammad in Islam) policies from Sunni-influenced governments beginning in the 1960s.

Ansar Allah, often recognised as the Houthis, is a Zaidi tribe that originated in Sa'dah, a city in Yemen, near the border of Saudi Arabia. After Hussein Badreddin al-Houthi, their leader, was assassinated in a military intervention due to his protests against the government policies in 2004, they rebelled against the Yemeni government. During the 2000s, the situation remained unstable, with several peace treaties being signed and later dismissed. The conflict escalated in 2009, pulling Saudi Arabia to the defense of the Yemeni government for a brief period, but eased the subsequent year after a ceasefire was established.

Then, in 2011, during the initial phases of the Yemeni Revolution, the Houthi announced their support for President Ali Abdullah Saleh's resignation. As Jamal Benomar took over as special envoy in April 2011, Yemen's former president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, realized he wouldn't be able to hold on against the multiple opposition waves attempting to overthrow him. This made the UN envoy's job easier, as he worked with Saudi Arabia as well as other Gulf states to put in place the so-called Gulf Initiative, in which Saleh would resign and give power over to Hadi, his vice president, in a gradual transition. Hadi eventually attained presidency in February 2012, after months of negotiations and amid the escalation of conflict, with significant foreign and Yemeni assistance, as part of a two-year transitional period. As Saleh was preparing to leave office later that year, the Houthis besieged the village of Dammaj located in northern Yemen, a move aiming to grant independence for Sa'dah.

In 2012, the Houthis decided to boycott the candidate election intended to give Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi a two-year period of office. They attended a National Dialogue Conference but voted against a final agreement in early 2014 that extended Hadi's term in office for an additional year. Around mid-2014, the dispute between the Sunni tribes and the Houthis in northern Yemen had advanced to other provinces, like Sanaa.



### **Timeline of the Yemeni Civil War (1990- present)**

**1990:** President Ali Abdullah Saleh merges north and south Yemen to create a single state.

**1994:** Civil war, in which Saleh prevents the south from dividing with the north,

**2003-2009.** In the north, the Houthi rebellion opposes the marginalization of the regional Zaydi Shia Muslim community, fighting six wars with Saleh's armies and the other with Saudi Arabia.

**2011:** Arab Spring protest movements destabilize Saleh's rule, splinter the army, and enable Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) to take control of areas in the eastern regions.

**2012:** Saleh resigns as part of a Gulf-backed political transition programme. Interim President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi is in charge of a national dialogue to establish a far more inclusive, federal constitution.

**2013:** AQAP escapes military assaults and drone strikes by launching attacks around the country as well as maintaining a consistent presence. The political transition is being disrupted by Saleh and his supporters.

**2014:** With Saleh's assistance, the Houthis quickly progress south from Saadeh and capture Sanaa on September 21. They want a portion of the power.

**2015:** Hadi wants to declare a new federal constitution, but is arrested by the Iran-aligned Houthis and Saleh. He flees, followed by the Houthis, prompting Saudi intervention in March, along with an Arab military alliance swiftly formed. After a while, the alliance, seeking to restore Hadi's overthrown regime, pushes the Houthis and Saleh supporters out of Aden, Yemen's south, and Marib, Yemen's northeast, but the frontlines strengthen, establishing years of stalemate.

**2016:** AQAP takes full advantage of the turmoil to create a mini-state around Mukalla in east Yemen, creating concerns that the war would spark a new wave of jihadist violence. The UAE supports local forces in a battle that stops the group's rule there. As the coalition introduces a partial blockade on Yemen, the coalition suspects Iran of exporting weapons to the Houthis alongside food imports, which Iran denies. Human rights organizations have issued alerts about coalition air strikes that harm civilians, but Western intervention for the military campaign persists.

**2017:** The Houthis are launching an increasing number of missiles into Saudi Arabia, which include Riyadh. Saleh changes sides after seeing an opportunity to reclaim power for his family by abandoning his Houthi allies, but he is killed while attempting to flee them.

**2018:** Coalition-backed militias, as well as some flying the southern separatist banner, progress up the Red Sea coast toward the Houthis with the purpose of capturing Hodeidah's port. Hodeidah is crucial for feeding Yemen's 30 million people because it manages the majority of the country's commercial and humanitarian imports. There is a military standoff. The Houthis dominate the port, while Yemeni forces backed by the coalition mass on the outskirts. In Sweden, during December, the feuding parties agree on a truce and troop withdrawal from Hodeidah, marking a significant advancement in peace efforts. Action on a prisoner exchange commences.

**2019:** The Stockholm Hodeidah cease-fire remains largely in place, but the withdrawal has yet to take place due to major mistrust. Outside of Hodeidah, there is still violence in Yemen. The UAE is gradually withdrawing from Yemen, but it continues to back local allies, particularly southern separatists who seized Aden in August. Riyadh mediates a power-sharing agreement between separatists and Hadi's government, but enforcement will not start until 2020.

**2020:** A limited U.N.-backed ceasefire is caused by the coronavirus pandemic, and yet no steps have been taken in negotiations to establish a lasting ceasefire, and fighting persists despite the involved parties carrying out a prisoner exchange. Yemen, according to the United Nations, is once again on the verge of famine. At least 22 civilians are murdered in an assault on Aden airport shortly after a plane carrying the newly established power-sharing government lands. The Houthis are accused by Riyadh and Hadi's government for this heinous act.

**2021:** The Trump administration declares the Houthis a foreign terrorist organization, sparking UN warnings that the decision could push Yemen into famine and disrupt peace efforts. The administration of new US President Joe Biden announces it will authorize all activities for a month while it evaluates the designation.

### **The UN's Intervention**

The United Nations Security Council issued a statement on April 14, 2015, imposing sanctions on Ahmed Ali Saleh and Abdul-Malik al-Houthi, imposing a weapons blockade on the Houthis, and urging the Houthis to retreat from Sanaa and other captured regions. The Houthis denounced the UN resolution and called for widespread protests. The UN backed negotiations between the Houthis and the Saudi-backed government were set to take place in December 2018. The UN has also begun flying injured Houthi fighters from Sanaa, Yemen's capital, to Oman, opening the way for proposed peace talks following nearly four years of civil war.

The agreement specified that 681 rebels would be released alongside 400 Hadi state forces, including fifteen Saudis and four Sudanese. The UN negotiated the prisoner exchange agreement during peace talks in Sweden in 2018, known as the Stockholm Agreement, and both sides agreed to a number of steps, which included a cease-fire in the city of Hodeida. A prisoner exchange was agreed upon during the 2018 peace negotiations that took place in Sweden. However, the plan's execution collided with the Houthi and the Saudi-led coalition military, worsening Yemen's humanitarian crisis, in which millions of people are affected by medical and food shortages.

The UN declared on September 27, 2020, that the Iran-backed Houthi forces as well as the Hadi army, supported by a Saudi-led military coalition, had negotiated to swap 1,081 hostages and captives as part of a release plan established in early 2020.

Yemen, according to the UN, is experiencing the world's biggest humanitarian crisis. Since 2015, the country has been devastated by war, which has killed over 50,000 people, many of whom are civilians, and worsened the economic situation. The nation is now on the verge of collapse. Famine threatens more than half of the population (14 million women, men, and children).



Since 2015, the United Nations and its allies have been offering lifesaving assistance and security on the ground. Here are a few examples:

- The UN's World Food Programme (WFP) delivers 100,000 metric tons of food to over 8 million Yemenis each month.
- More than 300,000 people have received cholera vaccines due to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO)
- 250,000 girls and women have received sexual and reproductive health services from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).
- To improve cooperation, the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) works closely with governments and humanitarian partners at all stages.

### **The Riyadh Agreement**

Yemeni President Abed Rabbu Mansour Hadi declared the formation of a new cabinet on December 18, as part of his attempts to enforce the political extension of the Riyadh Agreement (RA) signed on November 5, 2019 between the Republic of Yemen Government (ROYG) and the UAE-backed Southern Transitional Council (STC). The agreement comprised of a variety of political, security, and economic provisions, including the establishment of a new government that involves the STC, the disarmament and unification of militias and military units under the supervision of the defense and interior ministries, developing the Yemeni economy, and the demilitarization of Aden.

The agreement aims to put an end to a power struggle in the south that threatened to further divide Yemen. It came in response to the Kingdom's request for effective dialogue, sincere involvement, stronger cooperation, and an end to conflict immediately. The number of encounters between the STC and government forces escalated in August. Since September 2019, the two parties have been in indirect discussions in Jeddah which resulted in the Riyadh agreement. This crucial agreement clears the way for a long-term peaceful resolution and restores the much-needed stability in Yemen's southern region. The agreement reiterates Saudi Arabia's diplomatic, economic, and military support for Yemen's citizens, as well as Saudi Arabia's efforts to achieve durable peace in Yemen based on UN Security Council Resolution 2216, the GCC initiative and the National Dialogue's outcomes.

## Details of the Riyadh Agreement

- The agreement resolves differences between the government and the STC, which resulted in military conflicts between both parties in August 2019.
- The two parties have decided to establish a coalition government that will unite the Yemeni citizens, with the encouragement and guidance of Saudi Arabia.
- Issues over fair representation have been discussed, with equal representation in the new government for Yemen's northern and southern regions. The agreement guarantees that all Yemenis are fairly represented regardless of ethnicity, race or religion.
- The agreement includes the creation of a committee to monitor, enact, and enforce the agreement's requirements, which will be overseen by the coalition.
- The government now has control over all STC armed units, which are supervised by the Ministries of Defense and Interior. Heavy and medium firearms will be captured from all military forces in Aden under the coalition's control and stored in military camps selected by the coalition.
- Within 30 days, government and STC armed units will exit Aden, while Saudi Arabia will be in charge of security within the region. Furthermore, the Yemeni prime minister would start operating from Aden a few days after the agreement's signing.
- The agreement enables Yemen's legal government to reorient its attention on resolving the conflict with the Houthis, who are supported by Iran and have inflicted so much suffering and devastation in the country. It ensures that the STC will be included in any potential peace talks between the legal government and the Houthi insurgency.
- The Riyadh Agreement forms the base for future discussions with the Iran-backed Houthis, demonstrating that peace is possible if both parties are committed to a negotiated resolution and willing to sit down at the table.
- The Riyadh Agreement aims to regain government control across remaining regions, restore the position of all state institutions, provide employment opportunities for the Yemeni citizens, guarantee payment of pending salaries, enhance the abilities of state institutions, ensure that airports and seaports continue to operate, and provide protection in all liberated regions.
- The agreement mandates that all state income (including oil exports, customs, etc.) be collected in Aden's central bank, achieving transparency by ensuring parliamentary oversight of all public expenditure.
- The agreement demands for the reorganization of the security unit responsible for safeguarding civilian facilities in Aden (the Reserve Bank, government offices, airport, harbours etc.) within 30 days, under the management of the Interior Ministry, with the aim of gradually expanding its defense to all liberated regions within 90 days.
- The Riyadh Agreement also demands for the reorganization of security units in Saudi Arabia, which will be overseen by the Interior Ministry, located in Abyan and Lahij.

## **Political and Economic Arrangements**

The first point of the agreement is governed by these provisions. They include forming a unity government of 24 ministers evenly distributed between the north and south within 30 days of signing the agreement; Hadi would announce the premier and select members from members who were not involved in combat or incitement during the August 2019 occurrences. The prime minister-designate will name a governor and director of security for the Aden province.

The new prime minister will start working in Aden within a week after signing the agreement. He will work to restore the state's institutions and control its wealth and profits, including oil exports, taxes, and customs income, depositing them in the central bank in Aden, distributing wages and fees, and reporting revenues and expenditures to the parliament on a regular basis. He will also guarantee that the Central Agency for Auditing and Accounting starts working and that the National Anti-Corruption Commission and the Higher Economic Council are reorganised.

## **Military Arrangements**

The second point of the agreement is governed by these provisions. Within fifteen days of signing, the forces that have progressed towards Aden, Abyan, and Shabwa since the start of August 2019 will transfer to their former positions and local security forces will take their place. The security and military units located in Aden will be disarmed and redeployed outside the region, under the command of and in accordance with the coalition's timelines. According to coalition command instructions, all government and STC forces in the Aden region will be redistributed to camps outside of Aden. The First Presidential Protection Brigade is the only exception, as it will proceed to secure the presidential palaces and their surrounding areas and ensure the president's safe travel. Under the coalition's oversight, STC leaders would be given similar protection.

Both government and STC forces in Aden will be reunited, replaced with revised unit designations, and put under Defense Ministry control within sixty days of signing the agreement, before being reassigned under coalition supervision. Armies in Abyan and Lahj will be restructured under Defense Ministry control using the same method in the same time frame, with an additional thirty days for forces in the other southern regions.

## **Security Arrangements**

These agreements govern the agreement's third point. Within 30 days of signing, the governorate's security and support forces will assume responsibility for their execution and rearrangement of government and STC forces under the Interior Ministry. The same goes for the Interior Ministry's restructuring of security and counterterrorism units in Aden, and also their reinforcement with military forces from the government and STC forces, the recruitment of new commanders, and the assigning of new unit numbers. The Facilities Defense Forces, tasked with defending critical civilian infrastructure in liberated regions, such as harbours and

the natural gas facility in Balhaf, are subject to similar requirements, which must be implemented within 90 days.

### Questions a Resolution Must Answer (QARMA)

1. What is your country's position in the current Yemen situation, and if they have taken part, what step has your country taken to ensure that its proposed actions and solutions are followed?
2. How does the UN Security Council monitor the current Riyadh Agreement and what measures have been taken to ensure its implementation?
3. What are the challenges faced by your country after the signing of the Riyadh Agreement?
4. Are there any solutions/contributions proposed by your country in order to improve Yemen's humanitarian situation?

### Bibliography

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## **Introduction to the Topic: The New Iran Deal – A Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in the Region of Middle East**

### **The Iran Nuclear Deal and its Collapse**

The Iran Nuclear Deal, or more formally known as the “Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action” (JCPOA), was an agreement in mid-2015 between Iran and the permanent members of the Security Council (alongside Germany and the European Union as a whole). In summary, the agreement stipulated that Iran shall cease a significant portion of its nuclear program and allowing its nuclear facilities to be subject to inspections by the international organizations in return for the removal of sanctions set by the international community. With initial optimism and compliance with the agreement, it was widely believed that the agreement become the foundation of a period of peace and stability in the region.

In May 2018, then-President Donald J. Trump withdrew from the agreement. In response to this course of action (alongside other provocations such as the assassination of Qasem Soleimani), Iran immediately resumed several nuclear operations. As of 2021, President Joseph R. Biden has committed himself to the return of the deal through diplomatic negotiations. However, as it stands, with continuous provocations (including the Israeli attack on a nuclear facility in Natanz in April this year) and a perception of weakness by the President, fears of dramatic escalation in tensions within the Middle East are growing and may lead to the complete breakdown of the possibility of diplomatic solutions to the matter. Indeed, with Iran’s recent commitment to produce 60%-enriched uranium, it is uncertain what lays ahead.

### **The Potential Formation of a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone**

Given the substantial uncertainty that has arisen from these circumstances, the international community has once again reviewed the proposal for a Middle East nuclear weapon free zone (which has an acronym, the ‘MENWFZ’). The proposal is not a new one and has been in the process of implementation since the 1970s, albeit with varying levels of progress at times.

Its foundational beginnings have its roots in 1974 within the United Nations General Assembly. However, major breakthroughs came subsequently such as the establishment of the Arms Control and Regional Security (ARCS) in 1991 in Madrid, being a multilateral platform discussing arms control and regional security within the Middle East. However, in 1995, discussions were discontinued resulting from opposition from Israel, who asserted the position that a peace settlement between Israel and the Arab World is a prerequisite for a nuclear weapon free zone in the region. In the same year at the NPT Review Conference (or more formally known as the Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons), the ‘Resolution on the Middle East’ was adopted. Most notably, the resolution calls for “*all States in the Middle East to take practical steps in appropriate forums aimed at making progress towards, inter alia, the establishment of an effectively verifiable Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction, nuclear, chemical and biological, and their delivery systems, and to refrain from taking any measures that preclude the achievement of this objective*”.



Fifteen years later at the 2010 NPT Review Conference, the parties to the conference once again “*reaffirms that the full and effective implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the regime of non-proliferation in all its aspects has a vital role in promoting international peace and security*”. The final document of the Conference provided a plethora of recommendations, from pushing for proactive disarmament while providing security assurances to the cessation of nuclear testing, from the fostering of a framework allowing for the peaceful usage of nuclear technology to technical cooperation with international organizations (such as the IAEA). Notably, the final document also led the foundations for a Conference in 2012 on a nuclear weapon free zone in the Middle East and sought to end Israel’s policy of ambiguity, in which all states of the Middle East were expected to attend. Unfortunately, the discussions were called off as a result of persistent disagreements, such as Israel’s insistence on the prerequisite of an Arab-Israeli peace plan and the Arab World’s assertion that Israel’s undeclared nuclear warhead arsenal was the focal point for any resulting agreement.

Despite several other sporadic attempts to form a nuclear weapon free zone in the Middle East (such as a wave of letters by countries in the Middle East declaring their support for a nuclear weapon free zone in late 2013), the concept has unfortunately come into a standstill, with tensions continuously rising as a result of the proxy conflict between Israel and Iran. Therefore, it is here that an opportunity has been presented to the United Nations Security Council to revive and potentially implement the proposal into practical effect.

### **Stakeholders of Interest**

As one of the main stakeholders within recent discussions in the geopolitical sphere, the Islamic Republic of Iran continues to assert itself as an upcoming nuclear-armed state through its consistency in developing its nuclear arsenal after the withdrawal of the United States from the Iran Nuclear Deal in 2018. Iranian desire for the acquisition of nuclear weapons is not simply rooted in opposition to Israel or the United States, but to also maintain its own state of security and to exert geopolitical power across the Middle East. Being the only Shia-Muslim state in the world, Iran is completely surrounded by Sunni-Muslim neighbours, effectively rendering itself as contained. Its rivalry with Saudi Arabia has also pushed Iran to aggressively breach out from this containment, particularly through supporting non-state actors such as the Houthi rebels in Yemen. Being able to procure nuclear weaponry would allow Iran to completely break the containment and exert influence at an unprecedented level, for such is Iran’s goal.

Arguably the most significant stakeholder with an interest unparalleled to the rest of the Middle East is the State of Israel. Throughout history, Israel has consistently been surrounded by hostile neighbours in the Arab World, the latter seeking to establish a Palestinian state.

Israel’s insistence on the establishment of a permanent Israeli-Arab peace settlement has been rooted in its lack of geographic depth in case of an invasion and distrust with several of its neighbours, particularly Iran. Therefore, ensuring Israeli cooperation and compliance with a nuclear weapon free zone in the Middle East will effectively require security guarantees to the highest degree, especially against its Iranian rival.



## **Challenges to the Proposal**

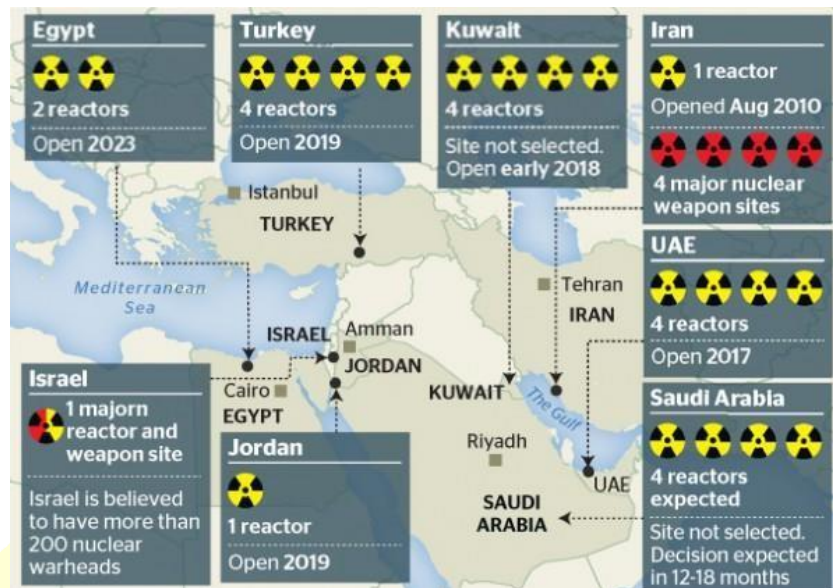
### **Peaceful Usage of Nuclear Technologies**

Throughout all historic conventions on the matter of nuclear weaponry, the peaceful usage of nuclear technologies has been championed. The peaceful usage of nuclear energy has been shown to be one of the most effective and efficient sources of energy, being capable of producing energy with an efficiency greater than 90% while being completely carbon-free. It is therefore rather obvious that the benefits of nuclear energy are unchallenged in comparison to other sources of electricity. Indeed, by the early 2010s, approximately 15% of the globe's energy supply originated from nuclear power plants. There are more than a hundred (100) reactors in the United States alone and countries such as Lithuania, France and Slovakia supply their energy needs almost completely from nuclear power plants.

However, the main point of contention here is the possible transition of nuclear facilities into armament for nuclear weaponry. The main resource dedicated for the production of both nuclear energy and nuclear weaponry is uranium due to its nature of being able to be split apart with relative ease and its commonness. That being said, however, there is a particular type of uranium that is utilized for the production of nuclear energy, namely 'U-235', which is relatively rare and only makes up less than 1% of the total uranium globally. Given that they can be rapidly transitioned into production for nuclear weaponry, it therefore brings concern to the international community if this scenario were to occur, particularly nation states who have a history of tinkering with nuclear weaponry. As of today, only countries that are party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) are permitted to engage in the import and export of uranium or plutonium (which is another nuclear fuel that made the nuke that struck Nagasaki, 'Fat Man'). Indeed, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) simultaneously encourages the peaceful usage of nuclear energy while restricting the procurement of nuclear weaponry. Nevertheless, it is still ever so possible for a country to procure nuclear sources for peaceful means at a large scale for a certain amount of time, only to abruptly transition into nuclear weaponry production in a short period time. Hence, prevention of this scenario would be imperative, while maintaining the right to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

### **Dismantling Existing Nuclear Weapons**

Undoubtedly, one of the greatest challenges towards the establishment of a nuclear weapons free zone in the Middle East is the dismantling of existing nuclear weapons and production lines thereof. Given the current geopolitical tensions in the Middle East (particularly the Saudi-Iranian proxy conflict), it is highly unlikely that the involved stakeholders would relinquish nuclear capabilities without a gargantuan number of concessions. The main nations of focus would be Iran and Israel, of which each has active nuclear production facilities and believed to have actual warheads respectively. Resolution of their concerns as discussed earlier (being their main motivations for the procurement of nuclear weaponry) may lead to a path for disarmament, yet it would assuredly be a task so gargantuan, as if one were to untie the Gordian knot.



### The Problem of Enforcement

As with several resolutions of the United Nations Security Council in the past, compliance with the resolutions may become a point of contention despite the Security Council's legally-binding nature. For a fully-effective nuclear weapons free zone in the Middle East to be established, total compliance must be attained by all nation states within the region, as the failure of one to comply may be justification for others to follow suit.

Two countries in particular are of concern in regards to this particular challenge. These two countries, having significant geopolitical interests and an unprecedented stake in the Middle East, may potentially be the catalyst for the complete breakdown of the nuclear weapons free zone. These two countries similarly have a questionable track record of compliance with multilateral arrangements and Security Council resolutions. It is no secret that both countries are Iran and Israel respectively.

Potential measures for the enforcement of measures include all measures as stipulated within Chapter VI, VII, VIII and XII of the Charter of the United Nations, such as the commencement of sanctions and the severance of diplomatic relations. However, Israel is currently in alignment with the United States and the United Kingdom while Iran is currently in alignment with Russia and China. Thus, it is highly unlikely that each major power would abandon their strategic partners without equal compliance with the other. Plus, the entire situation may be once again merely used as another geopolitical flashpoint for the major powers of the world to contend in, without any end in sight. Thus, while a resolution reached on a nuclear weapons free zone would have inherently received the consent of the major powers of the world (who are also the Permanent Five), it is also their duty to ensure that the resolution that they have consented to is followed through by their strategic partners if the nuclear weapons free zone were to be established, lest it would have been only mere words in the chambers of the Security Council.

## QARMAs

1. Does the Security Council deem it necessary that a nuclear weapons free zone be established in the Middle East, the lack thereof being a threat to international peace and security? If so, when would the nuclear weapons free zone in the Middle East be in force after the passage of the relevant resolution?
2. How can the Security Council ensure that the peaceful usage of nuclear technology is continued and protected while preventing the transition of nuclear facilities into the production of nuclear weaponry?
3. Through what measures can the Security Council enforce the disarmament of existing nuclear weapons and production lines thereof?
4. In what way can the Security Council ensure that a potential resolution that creates a nuclear weapons free zone in the Middle East is complied with? What measures would be employed against non-compliance?

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