IAEA **Israel**

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**Introduction**

The State of Israel endures a constant state of negativity and ignorance from its Middle Eastern neighbours. Fortunately, Israel’s tenacity and forward thinking makes the State an intellectual addition to those seeking world peace and security.  Israel is fully aware of the benefits of peace in the Middle East. However, Israel’s geopolitical position leaves it in conflict with its neighbours. The regional states are NPT signatories but their destructive actions towards Israeli sovereignty have shown their non-compliance with the bias NPT. Furthermore, from Israel’s perspective, Iran’s nuclear program is the greatest threat to Middle Eastern security. Israel commends other countries for their steps to achieve non-proliferation, but condemns countries that say they have adhered to the NPT while not doing so as well as nation states who single-out Israel using clearly irrational and hypothesized accusations. As the sole free Middle Eastern country, as noted by the 2013 Freedom of the World annual survey, Israel would like to deliberate understanding and cooperation in the IAEA to attain world peace.

**1. Addressing the Threat of Nuclear Terrorism**

Current Issue

Since the 1968 Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the world has taken great strides to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons to promote peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and to achieve global disarmament. However, the threat of nuclear terrorism from rogue states or from militants has become an evident issue ever since the destructive nature of nuclear weapons was shown in the Western led Manhattan project. Acknowledging the published reports on the preventative measures in place, transportation and the monitoring of facilities has led to no issues related to nuclear terrorism. Nonetheless, the technological advances in encrypted communication and crypto currencies (ie. VPNs, TOR networks, and encrypted applications like WhatsApp) have increased the risk of terrorist entities securing fissile materials without a nation state’s counter-terrorism agency’s knowledge. The aforementioned issues surrounding encrypted communication reflect theft and those attempting to secure radioactive materials. Moreover, the knowledge around how to create nuclear reactions is much more accessible due to the proliferation of the Internet and sharing networks that are both public and private. With this, state actors and non-state actors have the capabilities of developing nuclear devices. Our commitment is to work with other progressive nation states to create free zones from weapons of mass destruction (WMDs).

Israel’s Concerns

“The ruling to kill the Americans and their allies [Israel] – civilians and military – is an individual duty for every Muslim who can do it in any country”. It is evident from Osama Bin Laden’s quote that Israel, as the Jewish state, is in a vulnerable geopolitical position. Additionally, due to Israel’s geographical shape its borders are hard to protect on land and sea.

Israel’s Policies and Preventions

Israel continues to neither confirm nor deny an active nuclear program. However, the international community’s belief of Israel’s nuclear capability acts as an essential deterrent. Israel does not declare it’s nuclear statistics leaving countries wary of its power. Furthermore, the “retaliate first, no questions asked” is another strong deterrent used for countries attempting to hurt Israel. In the event of an attack on Israel, without any forensic study, Israel would launch a full attack on its determined enemy. Although this would not work internationally, it has created a strong shield for Israel.

Solutions

Due to the evident fact that WMDs exist, prevention therefore is key. Detecting the threat is necessary but difficult due to the nature of secrecy these programs are rooted in. Instead, transparency and the reduction of personal privacy are the key factors that crumble secrecy. With nations collecting domestic and international data, it becomes apparent where risks are and the methods for stopping them become easier. Nuclear terrorism comes from nihilistic intentions in which religion is often a factor. Promoting understanding, especially in the Middle East is necessary for peace. With this, focusing on youth, education and religious studies will help to lead towards a peaceful and secure future.

The US-Israel partnership has led to numerous initiatives in the Middle East striving for nuclear peace. A prime example is the Megaport Initiative, which helps prevent possible illicit trafficking of radioactive materials and ensures nuclear materials are kept away from unstable entities.

Conclusion

It is unviable to believe countries will completely disarm their nuclear stockpile while hostilities exist. It is also inefficient for foreign governments to intervene with regional solutions when they are unaware of restrictions and consequences of their plan. Although the end goal is to achieve a free zone of WMD, Israel needs its fellow states to recognize it respectfully and acknowledge its strong presence in the Middle East.

**2. Nuclear Energy as an Alternative Source of Energy**

Current Issue

After the accident in Fukushima, Israel’s PM announced that the country will “reconsider the projects of building civil nuclear power plants.” Unfortunately, this widespread misunderstanding of nuclear energy masks the benefits and the reliability of nuclear energy. Israel has retracted its statement in which it has unshelved its nuclear ambitions to become more viable for the future. With more environmental mining practices, fewer greenhouse gas emissions, and safer energy distribution, nuclear energy’s only negatives appear to be it’s capital costs and the assumption that it will lead to nuclear war and/or terrorism. Fortunately, the pre-existing standards and practices surrounding the development, implementation and operation of nuclear energy are controlled to protect the general public.

Israel’s Energy

Along with its production of coal, Israel largely exported its energy requirements. Now, with the US American Nobel Energy Corporation discovering significant gas reservoirs in Israel’s offshore it has made Israel more energy secure. Coal and oil are by far very detrimental sources of energy towards the environment. In the past decade, Israel boasts a decrease of 15% in its coal production, and instead, four times the production of natural gas. Today, Israel has many directions it can go to achieve energy security, specifically along its shore. In its waters, Israel could either construct two artificial islands to exploit its natural gas, or with a partnership with the US, Israel could bypass the NPTs bias rules, and build a nuclear power facility to supply its country with reputable clean energy. Natural gas is the cleanest source of fossil fuel and there is already the infrastructure to use it. Additionally, it encourages employment and produces little to no waste (ash). Israel has always intended to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. A prime function of nuclear energy could be desalination. Israel’s climate creates an inevitable water scarcity, but with nuclear energy in its shores, Israel could process its water efficiently and safely. As natural gas is already proliferating, it can supply Israel in the short-term, while nuclear and other energy plans are reviewed.

IAEA’S Role

As the Atomic Energy Agency, the IAEA will encourage peaceful production of nuclear energy, and do everything in its power to monitor nuclear activities. It is necessary that the committee understand how important national security is when it comes to a country’s self defence. Israel advocates for the peaceful intentions of nuclear power, and is ready to contribute to solutions that prevent dangerous state/non-state actors from proliferating nuclear energy. Nuclear energy’s biggest issue is storage in which enriched Uranium lasts for billions of years. Constructing safe, guarded, and reliable storage areas away from urbanized areas will ensure that radioactive waste does not lead to unintended consequences. Furthermore, preventing accidents in facilities is the nation's job in ensuring the facility is operating to IAEA standards for the sake of the public and the workers. Israel remains persistent that it is not IAEA’s role to mandate protocols for nation state’s nuclear energy programs, but it is to encourage practices. Also, IAEA should not be responsible for inspections in nation states as foreign speculation is not as effective as internal instruction. Israel would like to cooperate with the IAEA and assure all nuclear programs are used for peaceful purposes.

**3. Measures to Implement and Enforce the Nuclear Program in Iran**

“A historic mistake”

Iran’s nuclear deal of July 2015 was an attempt at peace. The State of Israel fully acknowledges its necessity for the sake of Israel’s sovereignty along with the Middle East’s. However, the accord only delays Iran’s nuclear program rather than completely eradicating it. Iran is built off its sponsorship of terrorism. Iran may have started to alter its nuclear program for peaceful purposes, but it continues to test missiles and other destructive mechanisms that further concern the Middle East. Granted the IAEA has declared Iran has fulfilled its commitments to the JCPOA agreement, relieving Iran of its sanctions does not stop it from excessively enriching nuclear energy in the future.

Israel’s Concern

Iran’s nuclear program has given Israel and the world a one-year breakout period. This period means Israel and other countries must prepare their self-defence in the case that Iran’s government falls. The plan of action has also intensified verification of the programs reduction to ensure disarmament. Still, Israel has an existential threat within the region that aims to dominate the area. If Iran succeeds in developing a weapon, the majority Jewish population will again suffer assimilation similar or greater to the Holocaust. Iran will always seek its destruction and the IAEA is required to impede all such actions. Israel will always defend itself, but IAEA must recognize Iran’s threat and deter it at all costs.

Cause and Effect

Iran is notably the most radical state in which its support for militant groups such as the Hezbollah has become a pragmatic issue in the region. With the JCPOA deal, billions of dollars is being fuelled into Iran’s disarmament program, but in reality, it will be kept and fuel Iran’s war machine used against Israel and other nations. The IAEA needs to direct those funds into supporting neighbouring countries affected by Iran’s presence. Rather than fuelling terrorist regimes, the IAEA needs to find rational ways to prevent Iran’s proliferation of terrorism. To start, removing the stockpile of enriched Uranium from Iran is necessary for them to lose a large portion of material that can produce radioactive weaponry. Additionally, dismantling centrifuges and destroying the reactor used to create nuclear arsenals must not only be destroyed but methods to create further technology must also be prevented. With measures in place, verification and inspection is necessary for Iran to understand the IAEA is actively engaged in this matter.

Future

The State of Israel is worried that within the decade, Iran will again become a cancerous vector to the Middle East that proliferates hate and nuclear weapons. As the IAEA, it is the responsibility to assure that regional nation’s security is always minded. As the war and devastation that occurs in the Middle East, the IAEA also must recognize the presence of Iran’s military and how its army must be controlled to continue the safety of its neighbouring states. Israel strongly believes this issue relates to that of nuclear terrorism and needs to be addressed first and foremost. It is Israel, along with its fellow Middle Eastern states that must bear the burden of Iran, but it is the world that will bear the burden if nuclear war ensues because of passive measures to prevent it.

Shalom.

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