

"GAPP students Simulation on ME nuclear free zone"

As part of the graduate class PPAD 5153 on "Armament, Arms Control, and Disarmament," led by Ambassador Professor Sameh Aboul Enein, graduate students took part in a simulation conference of a special United Nations General Assembly Session to establish a Middle East Zone free of Nuclear Weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. It was a particularly successful exercise given the multinational nature of the students enrolled in the course, including Canada, Nigeria, Italy and Egypt. A keynote speaker was also present representing ICAN, a reputable international non-government organization working to abolish nuclear weapons. The conference was held at the Diplomatic Lounge in the AUC Campus Center on Saturday, Nov 8th, 2014. Students adopted the role of Ambassadors of their respective countries and representatives of numerous international organizations and bodies.

The main aim of this simulation was to successfully mimic the procedures and mechanisms that exist within international deliberations on Armaments and Disarmament of Weapons of Mass Destruction. Through three constructive sessions, students quickly discovered the need for strong and active diplomacy, compromise, and mutual concessions and witnessed firsthand the difficulties in achieving consensus that is very commonly observed in international deliberations. Representing nations including Egypt, Iran, Israel, Russia and the United States, and also international bodies such as the League of Arab States and the International Atomic Energy Agency, delegates worked hard to achieve their respective countries' goals and aspirations while working under the limitations of their national foreign policies. By the third session, a draft consensus statement was proposed to all delegations. Following numerous amendments and omissions, a Consensus Guideline was successfully realized.

All member states and international bodies signed the Consensus Guidelines. It reaffirmed the refrain from the threat or use of force and for member states to place all nuclear facilities under the IAEA's comprehensive safeguards system. It also called upon the review of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material as well as other conventions to ensure nuclear safety and security in the Middle East. Most importantly, however, the Consensus Guidelines also actively tackled the main impediments to the potential establishment of a Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone in the region; particularly Israel's undeclared nuclear weapons stockpiles and Iran's nuclear energy regime. Lastly, the Guidelines declared the convening of a conference in early 2016 to follow up on the numerous developments and activities following its adoption, and to establish a Technical Working Group to consider further steps moving forward to ensure the establishment of such a Zone.

Organized by Heba Galal- Teaching and Research Assistant of the course

