

Academy of Diplomacy and International Governance

**Simulation Exercise: UN special session on a Middle East Nuclear
Weapon Free Zone, Week 9-15 of May, 2016**

Instructor: Dr. Sameh Aboul Enein

<http://www.lborolondon.ac.uk/study/institutes-programmes/academy-of-diplomacy-and-international-governance/people/>



The Loughborough University in London, under the supervision of Ambassador Dr. Sameh Abould Enein, conducted a simulation for a UN special session on nuclear disarmament in the Middle East. The simulation involved students from the Master Program at various stages of their academic program. The participating students represented countries and organizations that are most concerned with the topic. Represented countries and organization included the US, Russia, China, Egypt, Iran, Israel, the IAEA, the CTBTO, and several other states and organizations that are usually present around the negotiations table whenever a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone in the Middle East is on the agenda.

During the simulation, the students had the opportunity to represent the foreign policy stance of their respective states and to engage with their counterparts in formulating a draft resolution that is aimed towards solving the issue at hand. Students were able to experience what its like to be part of an international conference, and to become familiar with the working atmosphere and procedures in UN sessions.

Exercise Preparation

I. Simulation Exercise Preparation:

- Students will be assigned roles for the session
- Students are to research reading for their roles
- Students are to read into their roles and be prepared to speak on their country's / organization's position.
- It is important that strict adherence is kept to time available.

II. Simulation Setting:

- This will be in the form of a conference called by the UN Secretary General.
- The aim is to prepare the ground for the formal talks planned on elimination of nuclear weapons in the Middle East.
- The decision to hold this meeting has been prompted by the current unrest in the region. The situation in the Middle East generally is in turmoil in many countries.

III. Conference:

Stage 1:

- In this formal session, each student representing a country from the area is to be prepared to present his/her country's position on the setting up of a Middle East nuclear-free zone.
- Other countries with interests in the area may wish to intervene in the discussions and students representing them should be prepared to do so.
- Iran, Israel, Pakistan, Egypt and the USA in particular are to be critical in their interventions and students should role-play accordingly.
- The media representatives and the NGOs should play a similar role.

Stage 2:

- Interactive session during which Country / Organization representatives engage in cross exchanges on the topic in an informal session.

Stage 3:

- The Conference President and the UN Secretary General's representative are to prepare two or three paragraphs on a Middle East resolution arising from the discussion. An attempt to achieve consensus through a drafting process will be exercised. Otherwise, there will be a call for a vote

IV. LEARNING OUTCOMES OF THE SIMULATION

- Practice speaking in public
- Practice in the use of diplomatic language and the required protocol
- Importance of careful preparation before speaking and the accuracy of facts
- Need to keep diplomacy active, with no "closed doors"
- Realization of the dangers of becoming locked into positions and of stating preconditions before the commencement of negotiation
- The use of "ice-breakers" and "shared experiences" when appropriate to build trust

Nuclear Weapons free Zone Guidelines**I. Available guidelines for nonproliferation in the ME**

1- The United Nations (UN) guidelines and principles for the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free-zones are another important reference for future zones that should be thoroughly utilized. Provisions include references to the following:

- A NWFZ will help strengthen the security of States parties to such zones and will serve as an important disarmament tool that contributes to the primary objective of strengthening regional peace and security and, by extension, international peace and security;
- The obligations of all the States parties to a zone treaty should be clearly defined and legally binding, and the States parties should fully abide by such agreements
- A NWFZ should not prevent the use of nuclear science and technology for peaceful purposes and may promote, if provided for in the treaties establishing such zones, bilateral, regional and international cooperation for the peaceful use of nuclear energy in the zone in support of socio-economic, scientific, and technological development of the States parties;
- It can also be considered an important regional confidence-building measure that reaffirms the commitment of the States that belong to the zone to honor their legal obligations to other international nonproliferation and disarmament instruments to which they are parties;

- The nuclear-weapon-states (NWS) are to be consulted during the negotiations of each treaty, including the negotiation of relevant protocol(s) establishing a NWFZ, in order to facilitate the signature and ratification of the treaty;

2-The IAEA convened a forum on “Experience of Possible Relevance to the Creation of a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in the Middle East,” in Vienna, in November 2011. Forum attendees presented several constructive proposals that should be taken into consideration, including suggestions to:

- Consider the lessons and context of other regions prior to the establishment of a NWFZs;
- Review existing, multilateral principles for establishing such zones, and review the relevant theory and practice of establishing the five existing NWFZs;
- Discuss the experience of the five NWFZs in setting up and implementing such zones;

II. Technical Provisions for A Treaty-Based Zone

Along with the development of the Zone process, the following technical provisions are necessary to develop a treaty-based zone:

1. Dismantling and destroying existing or remaining nuclear weapons capabilities, facilities, and devices under international verification mechanisms;
2. Renouncing nuclear weapons through refraining from conducting indigenous development and activities related to nuclear weapons;
3. Prohibiting the transit or stationing of any nuclear explosive devices in the zone;
4. Using nuclear materials and facilities for peaceful purposes only;
5. Placing all nuclear facilities under comprehensive IAEA safeguards;
6. Establishing the necessary relevant institutions and mechanisms or entities to uphold a zone, free of nuclear and other WMDs;
7. Addressing the issue of verification, including identifying the role of the IAEA and other relevant organizations such as the OPCW and CTBTO.