

## Middle East Treaty Organization Report to Abolition 2000

It has been a busy year for METO as we continue to strengthen and expand our activities in different work streams. These include: The Draft Treaty Process; Publications; Citizen Diplomacy & Advocacy; Education & Capacity Building; Public Outreach; Campaigns; and Partnerships.

**The Draft Treaty Process:** METO's evolving Draft Treaty text, most recently [published as version 3](#) is currently undergoing major revision. We are incorporating findings from a series of off-the-record discussions with diplomats and experts on addressing specific technical and political issues which the official diplomatic process is faced with. The revised text will include a dispute resolution process and a phased model for a gradual commitment to a regional mechanism of compliance, monitoring and verification.

*We plan to convene further off-the-record discussions, conduct research and produce an updated draft treaty text in time for the upcoming UNGA 1<sup>st</sup> Committee, UN Conference on the Zone & NPT RevCon.*

**Publications:** In addition to publishing the Draft Treaty text—in the past year we have also written articles, journal papers and event reports that address issues at the intersection of disarmament, human security and diplomacy. This includes publications in the Brown Journal of World Affairs; The Cairo Review of Global Affairs; Arms Control Today and Presenza.

*We will continue to publish in depth reports following our roundtables, expert workshops and webinars; including our most up-to-date version of the Draft Treaty.*

**Citizen Diplomacy & Advocacy:** Our citizen diplomacy and advocacy work included bilateral meetings with key regional governments, members of the United Nations Security Council and countries at the forefront of international disarmament (such as Austria, Ireland, Japan & New Zealand).

*We will continue our government consultations and COVID permitting plan to hold side-events at relevant international disarmament conferences.*

**Education & Capacity Building Programs:** METO's seminar provided deep insight into disarmament and geopolitics to students across the region. We have also recently launched METO's University Network connecting students and graduates across the globe to raise awareness and educating the public on the Zone.

*We plan to hold month-long educational course for students in late July, while expanding our University Network across the globe.*

**Public Outreach:** METO's outreach efforts include public lectures, webinars, media interviews, social media and our own podcast series.

Recent webinars include "The Iran Nuclear Deal & the Middle East WMD Free Zone," in partnership with International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW). "USA, Iran & the JCPOA: What role for the other parties?" in partnership with Geneva Centre for Security Policy.

We also held our Roadshow online that provided audiences new to the disarmament world and the Middle East a rare Israeli & Iranian perspective on the issue, with Presenza moderating the conversation.

This year, METO launched a new series of podcasts called "In The Zone" to discuss all things related to the WMD Free Zone. Previous podcasts have featured interviews with former Head of Verification and Security Policy at the IAEA Tariq Rauf, Egyptian Ambassador Karim Haggag, Former UNIDIR Director Renata Dwan, Jordanian Ambassador Wael Al Assad, and Ding Tongbing, Director of the Nuclear Division of the Department of Arms Control of the Chinese MFA.

We have also expanded our online engagement through a new dynamic website ([wmd-free.me](http://wmd-free.me)) and presence on all major social media platforms: Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, LinkedIn and Soundcloud.

**Campaigns:** METO is in the planning stage to re-launch its Israeli campaign. With the new coalition government in Israel and METO's ability to advocate and engage with parliamentarians and members of the government, we hope to shape a new direction for the country on issues related to the Zone and broader regional security issues.

**Partnerships:** We continue to expand and deepen partnerships with leading academic, policy and civil society institutions are key to advancing our goal of a WMD Free Zone in the Middle East. A select number of our partners include: Abolition 2000; Atomic Reporters; British American Security Information Council; GCSP; ICAN; IPPNW; Pressenza; Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung; and World BEYOND War.