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METO's report to the Abolition 2000 AGM

The following is a report of the different work-streams currently operating within the Middle East Treaty Organization and their activities. For more information about us, please check out our website: www.wmd-free.me

The Draft Treaty

To date, METO has produced four different iterations of a Draft Treaty. We do so through the convening of regular roundtable discussions and expert meetings with diplomats, academics and civil society partners, under the Chatham House rule and then, through online webinars and at UN WMD disarmament conferences, we present the results of our work to the world. A key element of this work-stream is that our round table meetings are always attended by a majority of people from the proposed zone and we simulate negotiations to see what elements might garner support and which may be considered too controversial. Our Draft Treaties are produced under a creative commons license, giving interested parties the chance to take our work and build on it.

Humanitarian Initiative

The humanitarian initiative gives meaning to all the other work that we do in METO. WMD have been used in several countries of the region, including nuclear weapons testing in the Algerian desert and chemical weapons in wars in Yemen, Iraq, Iran and Syria. METO gives a voice to the survivors, we document their stories and publicise them, putting their needs front and centre of our work.

Education and capacity building

METO's education and capacity building work-stream offers courses to junior diplomats, tertiary education students, and professionals in the field. Our courses provide participants with a thorough understanding of questions relevant to WMD proliferation across the zone, and bring students up to date on efforts to strengthen international non-proliferation regimes. The best results from our courses are published in our own "METO Student Journal of WMD Disarmament and Security in the Middle East." Capacity building is also done through our University Network.

University Network

METO's university network started in the academic year 2021 and has grown to include 50 students from the faculties of International Relations, Middle East Studies, Law and many others from universities in over 20 countries. METO's representatives in these universities act as ambassadors for our work, organising conferences and establishing connections with professors and academics working in areas related to our topic. We provide our representatives with a thorough grounding in the topic through our education course, and we provide opportunities for the most motivated to participate in our delegations to UN WMD disarmament conferences in New York, Geneva, The Hague and Vienna among others.

Media production

Our media production work-stream develops content targeted towards several different audiences. The results of our Draft Treaty deliberations are turned into articles for academic journals, such as the *Brown Journal of World Affairs* and for WMD-specific outlets such as the *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists*, and for the journals of our civil society partners such as *Reaching Critical Will*, the disarmament wing of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. We also produce articles and op-eds for news outlets such as Al Jazeera, Pressenza International Press Agency and In Depth News.

Furthermore, we have launched a podcast series called *In The Zone* in which we interview experts from various fields on subjects relevant to the establishment of the zone. And we produce our own monthly bulletin called *The Bright Side* which researches into and disseminates the good news stories from the region across a whole range of fields related to human security, such as renewable energy, water & food security, health and education, among many others.

Public Outreach

METO organizes webinars periodically, often with our partner organizations, to tackle issues that arise from the latest social and political developments in the zone and globally. From our extensive network of experts and partner organizations, we convene panels that delve into current issues and propose solutions. Furthermore, our University Network representatives organise conferences at their universities, providing us with another platform for publicising our work.

Human Security

METO's vision for the region goes beyond the eventual establishment of a WMD-free zone. We are working for the establishment of a region which is characterised by human security for everyone who lives there. Emerging from this vision is a project that we call

Re-mapping the Middle East, in which we carry out qualitative and quantitative data research and analysis on what security means for the people living in the region.

Middle East Treaty Organization

www.wmd-free.me

info@wmd-free.me