

Achieving the Possible

**Weapons of Mass
Destruction Free Zone in the
Middle East**

Treaty

Work status as of June 2018

Preamble

The Parties to this Treaty,

Determined to contribute to the realization of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Guided by various solemn declarations, resolutions and proposals on the creation of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, including the declaration on a nuclear weapon-free zone adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1974, and the resolution on achieving a Weapons of Mass Destruction free zone adopted by the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference as part of its decision to extend the NPT indefinitely,

Deeply concerned about the catastrophic humanitarian and environmental impacts, and the threats to the survival of peoples, cultures and states arising from the presence, use and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and associated capabilities in the Middle East, and the conflicts involving states and non-state actors that are tearing the region apart, and exacerbated by conflicts between external global powers,

Keen to avoid the grave mistakes in other regions where an attachment to deterrence strategies appear entrenched, harming regional and global security,

Painfully aware of the suffering experienced by the victims of chemical weapons in the region that continues to this day, and the legacy of distrust and hatred this causes,

Deeply concerned that, in a volatile environment, weapons of mass destruction and delivery capabilities incite an arms race, violence and discord, endangering the security and well-being of all peoples in the region and beyond and hindering cooperation and trust among governments,

Deeply concerned that the presence of weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and associated capabilities may provide opportunity for non-state actors to commit acts of gross violence,

Noting the success and importance of existing nuclear weapon-free zones, recognizing that the establishment of a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East would be a significant next step, and considering that establishment of a WMDfZ in the region would enhance the adjoining NWFZs in Africa and Central Asia and strengthen the security of states and peoples in all other regions,

Convinced that the creation of a Middle East free of all weapons of mass destruction will be a highly significant step towards fulfilling the goals of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and Biological & Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC), and concerned that these treaties will be weakened by failure to establish it,

Affirming the need for the universalization of all Weapons of mass destruction related treaties,

Convinced of the need to take decisive steps, enshrined in these and other treaties [ref General Assembly and UNSC resolutions, including the first resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations, adopted on 24 January 1946, and subsequent resolutions which call for the elimination of nuclear weapons], towards achieving the ultimate goal of a world entirely free of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, and recognizing the responsibilities of all states to contribute to this end,

Reaffirming the importance of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test- Ban Treaty and of bringing it into force, and of negotiating the Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty,

Noting the existing states' commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals and their relevance to the establishment of a WMD Free Zone in the region,

Recognizing the importance of sustainable economic development throughout the Middle East and the important aspirations for technical cooperation across the region,

Recognizing the rights and obligations attached to the civil applications of relevant technologies: nuclear, chemical and biological; including the [obligation] to avoid environmental catastrophe,

Determined that the WMDFZ would advance, and not impede, trade and development across the region, and desiring to render the Middle East free of environmental pollution including risks from radioactive and chemical wastes,

Welcoming the cooperation of all governments, civil society and peoples in the attainment of these objectives, as well as contributing to regional peace and security,

Have decided by this Treaty to establish a Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone, in the Middle East.

Article 1

Application of the treaty

1. Except where otherwise specified, this Treaty and its Protocols shall apply to the territory within the Weapons of Mass Destruction free zone in the Middle East (hereinafter referred to as WMDFZME), as illustrated in the map in Annex I.
2. For the full implementation of this treaty, and in accordance with Annex V, the States Parties to this treaty with the assistance from relevant organizations with expertise and authority on these issues in coordination with the secretary-general of the UN and relevant UN agencies, will establish a regional organization, located in an agreed upon state. The Middle East Treaty Organization (hereinafter referred to as METO), will serve as a meeting place for the States Parties to this treaty, as a capacity building home for experts from the region and the administrative umbrella for the regional inspections and verification.

Article 2

Definition/Usage of terms

For the purpose of this treaty and its protocols:

1. "Middle East" means the territory of all the current States Parties to the League of Arab States, Iran and Israel, as illustrated in the map in Annex I.
2. "Territory" means the land territory, internal waters, territorial seas and archipelagic waters and the airspace above them as well as the seabed and subsoil beneath;
3. "Stationing" means implantation, emplacement, transport on land or inland waters, stockpiling, storage, installation and deployment;
4. "Weapon(s) of mass destruction (hereinafter referred to as WMD) are defined for the purposes of this treaty as nuclear explosive devices as defined in paragraph 5 of this article, chemical weapons as defined in paragraph 7 of this article, toxic chemicals as defined in subparagraph 8 of this article, biological agents as defined in subparagraph 12 of this article or toxins as defined in paragraph 13 of this article.
5. "Nuclear explosive device" means any nuclear weapon or other nuclear explosive device capable of rapidly releasing energy from a nuclear reaction with destructive effect, irrespective of the purpose for which it could be used. The term includes such a weapon or device in unassembled and partly assembled forms, but does not include the means of transport or delivery of such a weapon or device if separable from and not an indivisible part of it;

6. "Nuclear material" means any source material or special fissionable material as defined in Article XX of the Statute of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and as amended from time to time by the IAEA.
7. For the purpose of this treaty and its protocols, "chemical weapons" means the following, together or separately:
 - a. toxic chemicals and their precursors, except where intended for purposes not prohibited under this Convention, as long as the types and quantities are consistent with such purposes;
 - b. munitions and devices, specifically designed to cause death or other harm through the toxic properties of those chemicals specified in subparagraph a) above, which would be released as a result of the employment of such munitions and devices; and
 - c. any equipment specifically designed for use directly in connection with the employment of munitions and devices specified in subparagraph b).
8. "Toxic chemical" means any chemical which through its action on life processes can cause death, temporary incapacitation or permanent harm to humans or animals. This includes all such chemicals, regardless of their origin or of their method of production, and regardless of whether they are produced in facilities, in munitions or elsewhere.
9. "Precursor" means any chemical reactant which takes part at any stage in the production by whatever method of a toxic chemical. This includes any key component of a binary or multi-component chemical system (in accordance with the list of precursors which have been identified for the application of verification measures, in Schedules contained in the Annex on Chemicals of the Chemical Weapons Convention).
10. "Key component of binary or multi-component chemical systems (hereinafter referred to as "key component") means the precursor which plays the most important role in determining the toxic properties of the final product and reacts rapidly with other chemicals in the binary or multi-component system.
11. "Riot control agent" means any chemical not listed in a Schedule (as listed on the CWC Annex on Chemicals), which can rapidly produce in humans sensory irritation or disabling physical effects which disappear within a short time following termination of exposure.

12. "Biological agents" means any agent that depends for their effects on multiplication within the target organism and are intended for use in war to cause disease or death in man, animals or plants; they may be transmissible or non-transmissible. Microbial or other biological agents, or toxins, whatever their origin or method of production, of types and in quantities that have no justification for prophylactic, protective or other peaceful purposes.
13. "Toxins" are poisonous products of organisms; unlike biological agents, they are inanimate and not capable of reproducing themselves.
14. Weapons, equipment or means of delivery designed to use such agents or toxins for hostile purposes or in armed conflict.
15. "Means of delivery" means missiles, rockets and other unmanned systems capable of delivering nuclear, chemical or biological weapons that are specially designed and have been tested for such use.
16. "Nuclear installation" means a nuclear-power reactor, a nuclear research reactor, a critical facility, a conversion plant, a fabrication plant, an enrichment plant, a reprocessing plant, an isotope separation plant, a separate storage installation and any other installation or location in or at which fresh or irradiated nuclear material or other nuclear materials are present.
17. "Chemical weapons production facility" means:
 - a. any equipment, as well as any building housing such equipment, that was designed, constructed or used at any time, for the production of chemicals listed in Schedule 1 in the CWC Annex on Chemicals; or
 - b. any other chemical that has no use, above one tonne per year, for purposes not prohibited under the CWC, but can be used for chemical weapons purposes; or
 - c. for filling chemical weapons, including, among others, the filling of chemicals listed in the CWC Annex on Chemicals – Schedule 1 into munitions, devices or bulk storage containers; the filling of chemicals into containers that form part of assembled binary munitions and devices or into chemicals sub-munitions that form part of assembled unitary munitions and devices; and the loading of the containers and chemical sub-munitions into the respective munitions and devices.

18. For the purposes of this treaty:

- a. "production" of a chemical means its formation through chemical reaction;
- b. "processing" of a chemical means a physical process, such as formulation, extraction and purification, in which a chemical is not converted into another chemical;
- c. "consumption" of a chemical means its conversion into another chemical via a chemical reaction.

19. "Non-State Actors" means any individual or entity not acting under the lawful authority of any State in conducting activities which come within the scope of this resolution.

Article 3

Prohibition of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices

Each Party undertakes by consensus:

1. to determine an agreed upon timeline for the verified dismantlement of nuclear weapon programs in the region.
2. not to conduct research on, develop, manufacture, stockpile or otherwise acquire, allow transit through its territory (including air space and territorial waters) possess or have control over any nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive device by any means anywhere.
3. not to seek or receive any assistance in the research on, development, manufacture, stockpiling or acquisition, or possession of any nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices.
4. not to take any action to assist or encourage any entity to carry out research on, development, manufacture, stockpiling or acquisition, or possession of any nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive device.

Article 4

Prohibition of Stationing of WMDs

Each Party undertakes:

1. to prohibit, in its territory, the stationing of any WMDs.
2. to prohibit visits by foreign ships and aircraft to its ports and airfields, transit of its airspace by foreign aircraft and navigation by foreign ships in its territorial sea or archipelagic waters, if they are known to carry WMDs, or suspected of doing so.

Article 5

Prohibition of transferring WMDs

Each state party to this treaty undertakes not to transfer to any recipient or receive from any supplier whatsoever, directly or indirectly, and not in any way to assist, encourage, or induce any State, group of states, non-state actors or international organizations to manufacture or otherwise acquire any of the materials, agents, toxins, weapons or equipment specified in Articles 3, 4, 5 and 6 to this treaty.

Article 6

Prohibition of Testing Nuclear Weapons or Nuclear Explosive Devices

Each Party undertakes:

1. not to test any nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices.
2. to prohibit in its territory or in territory under its jurisdiction the testing of any nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices.
3. not to assist or encourage the testing of any nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive device by any state anywhere.
4. to sign and ratify the nuclear Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

Article 7

Declaration, dismantling, destruction or conversion of nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices and the facilities for their manufacture

Each Party undertakes:

1. to sign and ratify the NPT and TPNW within an agreed upon time-line.
2. to sign and ratify a comprehensive safeguards agreement and the full additional protocol for Non-Nuclear Weapons States with the IAEA;
3. to dismantle and destroy any nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices, that it has manufactured or acquired prior to the coming into force of this treaty (In an agreed upon time-line);
4. to declare within 30 days from the treaty's entry into force any capability for the manufacture of nuclear weapons or explosive devices that still exist on its territory or under its jurisdiction or control anywhere;
5. to destroy facilities for the manufacture of nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices or where possible and approved by the IAEA and METO, to convert them to peaceful uses and to place these under IAEA safeguards; and
6. to permit the METO Commission established in article 1 to verify or monitor the processes that dismantle or destroy nuclear weapons, as well as the destruction or conversion of the facilities for their production.

Article 8

Declaration, dismantling, destruction or conversion of Chemical weapons and the facilities for their manufacture

Each Party undertakes:

1. to sign and ratify the CWC in an agreed upon time-line, as mentioned in Annex III, and to adopt the composite text (also mentioned in Annex III);
2. to dismantle and destroy any chemical weapons that it has manufactured or acquired prior to the coming into force of this treaty (In an agreed upon time-line);

3. to destroy, or to convert to peaceful purposes, as soon as possible but not later than an agreed upon date after the entry into force of the treaty, all agents, toxins, weapons, equipment and means of delivery specified in Article I of the CWC, which are in its possession or under its jurisdiction or control;
4. to declare within 30 days from the treaty's entry into force any capability for the manufacture of chemical weapons that still exist on their territory or under their jurisdiction or control anywhere;
5. to destroy facilities for the manufacture of chemical weapons or devices or, where possible and approved by the OPCW and METO, to convert them to peaceful uses; and
6. to permit the METO Commission established in article 1 to verify the processes that dismantle or destroy chemical weapons, as well as the destruction or conversion of the facilities for their production.

Article 9

Declaration, dismantling, destruction or conversion of biological agents and toxins and the facilities for their manufacture

Each Party undertakes:

1. to sign and ratify the BWC and to conclude the Composite Text as mentioned in Annex IV of this treaty;
2. to dismantle and destroy any biological agents and toxins that it has manufactured or acquired prior to the coming into force of this treaty (In an agreed upon time-line);
3. to destroy, or to convert to peaceful purposes, as soon as possible but not later than an agreed upon date after the entry into force of the treaty, all agents, toxins, weapons, equipment and means of delivery specified in the composite text (mentioned in Annex IV) which are in its possession or under its jurisdiction or control;
4. to declare within 30 days from the treaty's entry into force any capability for the manufacture of biological weapons, agents and toxins that still exist on their territory or under their jurisdiction or control anywhere;
5. to destroy facilities for the manufacture of biological weapons or devices or, where possible and approved by BTWC Implementation Support Unit and METO, to convert them to peaceful uses; and

6. to permit the METO Commission established in article 1 to verify the processes that dismantle or destroy nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, as well as the destruction or conversion of the facilities for their production.

Article 10

Prohibition of dumping of nuclear and radioactive, chemical and biological wastes

Each Party undertakes:

1. to handle all radioactive, nuclear, chemical and biological wastes in accordance to the METO commission's waste handling and disposition instructions, in accordance with Annex V;
2. not to take any action to assist or encourage the dumping of radioactive wastes and other chemical, biological and radioactive matter, anywhere within the WMDFZME;
3. to provide the METO Council with data relating to any plan for the disposal of radioactive, chemical or biological waste in whatever forms to make it possible to determine whether the disposition is liable to result in the contamination of the waters, soil, sub-soil or airspace of any member state. The council shall deliver its opinion in a timely manner, after consulting with the group of experts referred to in Annex V – the METO;
4. to ensure all radioactive waste and other radioactive matter will be handled in accordance with the safety and security standards established by the Regional Nuclear Regulator (hereinafter referred to as RNR) to be established under the jurisdiction of METO, with the cooperation of the IAEA and UNSCEAR;
5. to effectively implement or to use as guidelines the measures contained in the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa in so far as it is relevant to radioactive waste;
6. to determine how it shall destroy chemical weapons, as long as it does not dump them in any body of water, bury them or burn in open-pits. Chemical weapons destruction will be done in designated and appropriately designed and equipped facilities, and in accordance with the guidelines of METO and the OPCW;
7. to lay down the appropriate provisions, whether by legislation, regulation or administrative action, in accordance with the METO, the BTWC support unit in accordance with the BWC Composite text, the appropriate way to destroy biological weapons. to work closely with the METO nuclear, biological and chemical departments to ensure the safety of all citizens in the Middle East zone.

Article 11

Capacity Building

Each Party to this treaty undertakes to lay down the appropriate provisions, whether by legislation, regulation or administrative action, to ensure compliance with the basic standards which have been established by METO, and to take the necessary measures with regard to teaching, education and vocational training.

Article 12

Permitted Nuclear Activities

1. Nothing in this treaty shall be interpreted as preventing or encouraging the use of nuclear sciences and technology for peaceful purposes in accordance with Article IV of the NPT and relevant IAEA guidance for safeguards, safety and security.
2. As part of their efforts to strengthen their security and stability, the States Parties undertake to fully cooperate with official regional and international bodies relevant to peaceful use of nuclear energy and nuclear science, in accordance with all regulations established by the IAEA and that will be established by METO, and in accordance with Article 16 (*verification of peaceful use*) of this treaty. METO will include a department for civil nuclear, chemical and biological industries for the purpose of establishing regulatory capacity.

Article 13

Permitted Chemical usage

1. Each State Party has the right, subject to the provisions of this Convention, to develop, produce or otherwise acquire, retain, transfer and use toxic chemicals and their precursors for purposes not prohibited under the CWC and the OPCW, including periodic updates by the OPCW.
2. METO will update the States Parties on any changes with the different schedules.
3. States Parties to this treaty will notify METO on related collaboration with other states, within or outside the region, as long as chemical materials specified in the Schedule are involved.

Article 14

Permitted Biological activities

Nothing in this treaty shall prejudice the rights of States Parties to, individually or collectively, conduct research, development, production or other acquisition, storage, transfer and use of microbial and other biological agents and toxins for peaceful purposes in accordance with Article X of the BTWC.

Article 15

Renewable Energy

The States Parties to this treaty will collaborate with METO and IRENA (the International Renewable Energy Agency) to promote safe, sustainable and diverse energy sources, including renewable energy, in recognition of its significant contribution to human security in the region.

Article 16

Verification of Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Activities

Each Party undertakes:

1. to sign and ratify a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA and an Additional Protocol.
2. to conduct all activities for the peaceful use of nuclear energy under strict nuclear non-proliferation, safety and security measures to provide assurance of exclusively peaceful and safe and secure use of nuclear energy.
3. to conclude a comprehensive safeguards agreement with METO for the purpose of verifying compliance with the undertakings in paragraph 2 of this article.
4. not to provide source or special fissionable material, or equipment or material especially designed or prepared for the processing, use or production of special fissionable material for peaceful purposes to any State unless subject to a comprehensive safeguards agreement and additional protocol concluded with IAEA.
5. not to provide any source or special fissionable material, or equipment or material, to any non-state actors.

6. to subject toxic chemicals and their precursors listed in Schedules 1, 2 and 3 of the Annex on Chemicals of the CWC, facilities related to such chemicals, and other facilities as specified in the CWC Verification Annex, that are located on its territory or in any other place under its jurisdiction or control, to verification measures as provided in the CWC Verification Annex.
7. the BTWC composite text will be used by the States Parties to this treaty, as long as there is no other BTWC compliance document agreed by all States Parties to the BTWC. The Composite text will be part of this treaty.

Article 17

Prohibition of attack on nuclear, chemical and biological installations

Each Party undertakes not to take, or assist, or encourage state or non-state actors in any action aimed at an attack by conventional, cyber or any other means against any nuclear, chemical and biological installations in the WMD/FZME.

Article 18

Physical protection of nuclear, biological and chemical materials and facilities

Each Party undertakes to maintain and update the highest standards of security and effective physical protection of nuclear materials, chemical materials and biological materials, their facilities and equipment to prevent theft or unauthorized use and handling. To that end each Party, in addition to its own regulations, undertakes to apply measures of physical protection equivalent to those provided for in the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material/Amended and in recommendations and guidelines developed by the IAEA, OPCW, the BTWC and the measures developed by METO for that purpose.

Article 19

Protection of populations and the environment

1. When implementing this treaty, each State Party will take all necessary safety precautions to protect populations and the environment.
2. The States Parties to this treaty will inform the OPCW, the UN Security Council and METO on any evidence of chemical weapon use in their territory, and will allow humanitarian organisations to offer medical assistance.
3. Each State Party to this treaty undertakes to provide or support assistance in accordance with METO, to any State Party to the treaty which so requests, following approval of the request by METO Council (described in Annex V paragraph 7).

Article 20

Mechanism for compliance - METO

1. For the purpose of ensuring compliance with their undertakings under this Treaty, the States Parties agree to establish the Middle East Treaty Organization – METO as set out in Article 1 paragraph 3 and described in Annex V.
2. METO shall be responsible, in collaboration with the relevant organizations, for:
 - a. collecting reports and exchange of information as provided for in article 21 (report and exchange of information);
 - b. arranging consultations as well as convening conferences of States Parties on the concurrence of a simple majority on any matter arising from the implementation of the Treaty;
 - c. reviewing the application to peaceful activities and safeguards by IAEA and OPCW as elaborated in Annexes II, III and IV;
 - d. bringing into effect the complaints procedure elaborated in Annex VI;
 - e. encouraging regional and sub-regional programmes for cooperation in capacity building for future regional inspection teams;
 - f. encouraging regional, international and sub-regional cooperation on the promotion of renewable energy;
 - g. promoting international WMD disarmament and the entry into force of the CTBT, TPNW as well as a BTWC compliance protocol;
 - h. providing an open and safe environment for meetings and discussion for experts from the zone; and
 - i. providing capacity building programmes for students and experts from the zone alongside other organisations.
3. The METO General Assembly shall meet in ordinary session once a year.
4. The METO Council shall meet in ordinary session once every two months and may meet in extraordinary session as may be required by the complaints and settlement of disputes procedure in Annex V.

Article 21

Report and exchange of information

1. Each State Party shall submit an annual report to METO on its nuclear, chemical and biological activities as well as other matters relating to the Treaty, in accordance with the format for reporting to be developed by the Council, and agreed by the METO General Assembly.
2. Each Party shall promptly report to METO any significant event affecting the implementation of the Treaty.
3. METO shall publish and also transmit the reports to the IAEA, the OPCW, to the BTWC Support Unit, the UN General Assembly, to the UN Security Council and any other relevant bodies.

Article 22

Conference of Parties

1. A Conference of all States Parties to the treaty shall be convened by the Depositary within an agreed time table after the entry into force of the treaty to, *inter alia*, elect members of the METO Council and determine its headquarters. Further conferences of States Parties shall be held yearly, in accordance with paragraph 4 of Article 20.
2. The Conference of all States Parties to the treaty shall adopt the Council's budget and a scale of assessment to be paid by the States Parties.

Article 23

Interpretation of the Treaty

1. Any dispute arising out of the interpretation of the treaty shall be settled by negotiation.
2. Decisions will be made by consensus.
3. If consensus has not been reached within a year, the issue in dispute will be addressed by the UNSC.

Article 24

Reservations

This treaty is written with an open invitation for suggestion, reservations, amendments, negotiations and adoptions. However, once the treaty is adopted by states: this treaty shall not be subject to reservations.

Article 25

Signature, ratification and entry into force

1. This treaty shall be open for signature by all States in the Middle East zone, as described in Annex I. Nuclear armed states outside the zone will be invited to sign Protocols to the treaty respecting its terms.
2. It shall enter into force on the date of deposit of the agreed upon instruments of ratifications.
3. It shall enter into force only after ratification by Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Syria and the United Arab Emirates.
4. For a signatory that ratifies this Treaty after the date of the deposit of instrument of ratification, it shall enter into force for that signatory on the date of deposit of its instrument of ratification.

Article 26

Amendments

1. Any amendments to the treaty proposed by a State Party shall be submitted to the METO Council, which shall circulate it to all States Parties. If more than five states parties to this treaty agree, the amendment will be discussed in the subsequent conference.
2. Decision on the adoption of such an amendment shall be taken by a consensus of the States Parties either through written communication to the Commission or through a conference of States Parties convened upon the concurrence of a simple majority.
3. An amendment so adopted shall enter into force for all parties after receipt by the Depositary.

Article 27

Duration and Withdrawal

1. The duration of the treaty is unlimited.
2. Each State Party shall, in exercising its national sovereignty, have the right to withdraw from this treaty if it decides that extraordinary events, related to the subject matter of this treaty, have jeopardized its supreme interests.
3. Withdrawal shall be effected by a State Party giving first notice to the METO Council which includes a statement of the extraordinary events it regards as having jeopardized its supreme interest, for a period of twelve months during which the METO Council will seek a solution. After twelve months, if a solution is not found, the METO Council will call for a special meeting of the METO General Assembly, the depositary, and representatives of international organizations. In this meeting a special committee will be agreed upon, to try and reach a solution to the problem. In the event that no solution is found, the Depositary shall circulate the notice of withdrawal to all other States Parties.
4. Withdrawal from the treaty does not mean a withdrawal from all other obligations to the treaties the state in question has signed and ratified for.

Article 28

Depositary functions

The Secretary-General of the United Nations will be the depositary of this treaty. The Depositary with the assistance of UNODA shall:

1. receive instruments of ratification;
2. register this treaty and its protocols pursuant to Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations;
3. transmit certified copies of the treaty and its protocols to all States in the WMDFZME and to all States eligible to become party to the protocols to the treaty, and shall notify them of signatures and ratification of the treaty and its protocols.
4. take part in METO General Assembly meetings and any special meeting required by the METO Council.

Article 29

Authentic text

The Arabic, Farsi, Hebrew, French, Chinese, Spanish, English and Russian text of this treaty, shall be equally authentic.

Article 30

Status of the annexes

The annexes form an integral part of the Treaty. Any reference to this Treaty includes the annexes.

Annexes

Annex I

The Zone



Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Israel, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.

Annex II

Safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency

1. All States Parties to this treaty will sign and ratify the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as Non-nuclear-weapon States within five years of this treaty's entry into force.
2. The safeguards referred to in article 17 paragraph 3 shall in respect of each State Party be applied by the International Atomic Energy Agency as set forth in an agreement negotiated and concluded with the Agency on all source or special fissionable material in all nuclear activities within the territory of the Party, under its jurisdiction or carried out under its control anywhere.
3. The Agreement referred to in paragraph 2 above shall be equivalent, or equivalent in its scope and effect, to the agreement required in connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (INFCIRC/153 corrected). A State Party that has already entered into a comprehensive safeguards agreement with an additional protocol for non-nuclear weapon states with the IAEA is deemed to have already complied with the requirement. Each State Party shall take all appropriate steps to ensure that the Agreement referred to in paragraph 2 is in force for not later than eighteen months after the date of entry into force for that Party of this treaty.
4. For the purpose of this treaty, the safeguards referred to in paragraph 2 above shall have as their purpose the verification of the non-diversion of nuclear material from peaceful nuclear activities to nuclear explosive devices or for purposes unknown and to the absence of any undeclared nuclear materials and activities.
5. Each Party shall include in its annual report to METO, in conformity with article 19 for its information and review, a copy of the overall conclusions of the most recent report by the International Atomic Energy Agency on its inspection activities in the territory of the Party concerned, and advise METO promptly of any change in those conclusions. The information furnished by a State Party shall not be disclosed or transmitted to third parties, wholly or partially, except when that Party gives its express consent.

Annex III

The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

1. All States Parties to this treaty will sign and ratify the Chemical Weapons convention (CWC).
2. The safeguards referred to in Article 17 paragraph 6 shall in respect of each Party be applied by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) as set forth in an agreement negotiated and concluded with the OPCW on all dual uses material, under its jurisdiction or carried out under its control anywhere.
3. METO will inform the States Parties to the treaty about any change in the list of materials.
4. For the purpose of this treaty, the safeguards referred to in paragraph 1 above shall have as their purpose the verification by the OPCW.
5. States Parties to this treaty will collaborate with the OPCW when it requests access to their facilities for a challenge inspection.
6. Each State Party shall include in its annual report to METO, in conformity with Article 19, a copy of the overall conclusions of the most recent report by the OPCW on its inspection activities in the territory of the Party concerned, and advise METO promptly of any change in those conclusions. The information furnished by a Party shall not be disclosed or transmitted to third parties, wholly or partially, except when that Party gives its express consent.

Annex IV

The Biological Weapons Convention and the composite text

1. The safeguards referred to in Article 17 paragraph 7 shall in respect of each State Party be applied by METO in collaboration with the supporting unit of the BTWC as set forth in an agreement negotiated and concluded with METO on all source or special fissionable material in all related biological activities within the territory of the State Party, under its jurisdiction or carried out under its control anywhere.
2. For the purpose of this treaty, and until the States Parties to the BTWC will agree on a verification protocol, the safeguards referred to in paragraph 1 above shall have as their purpose the verification set out by the Ad Hoc Group in 2001 (the composite text). As long as the composite text is not negotiated or agreed upon by the States Parties to the BTWC, updates to the composite states will be made by the METO General Assembly, and will take into account any new scientific and technological developments relevant to the BTWC and this treaty.
3. States Parties to this treaty will collaborate with METO if it request access to open facilities for a challenge inspection.
4. Each State Party shall include in its annual report to METO, in conformity with Article 19, for its information and review, a copy of the overall conclusions of the most recent report by OPCW on its inspection activities in the territory of the Party concerned, and advise METO promptly of any change in those conclusions. The information furnished by a State Party shall not be disclosed or transmitted to third parties, wholly or partially, except when that Party gives its express consent.

Annex V

METO

1. METO, established in Article 1 paragraph 2 of this treaty, will function as the liaison between the States Parties to this treaty and the international WMD related organizations as well as the related UN functions.
2. METO will be located in a state within the Middle East region, the host state will conclude a privileges and immunities agreement with METO and provide a cost free headquarters building; METO will conclude relationship agreements with the UN, IAEA, CTBTO and OPCW, as well as MOUs with OPANAL, AFCONE and other NWFZ institutions.
3. All MEWMDFZ parties will make financial contributions to METO in accordance with their UN scale of assessments to fund the activities of METO – the costs of METO will be kept to the minimum possible.
4. METO shall be the place where all States Parties to this treaty will collaborate to execute the purposes of the treaty, in an open and safe environment, towards eliminating regional threats related to WMDs and their means of delivery, and to cultivate a solid group of inspectors and scientists from the region.
5. The METO General Assembly will meet once a year for a two-week period to monitor the implementation of the treaty and any disputes that may have occurred throughout the preceding year.
6. The METO General Assembly will consist of representatives of all States Parties to this treaty, representatives of the IAEA, OPCW, BWC Support Unit, CTBTO, UNSG and the depository.
7. Civil society, academics, representatives of neighboring countries and in particular Pakistan and Turkey, and representatives of states possessing nuclear weapons will be invited to METO GA meetings as observers.
8. The METO GA will receive reports from the METO Council.
9. The METO Council will consist of specialists and diplomats from the zone, representing Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, UAE, Saudi Arabia and Syria and rotational states. The Council will consist of no more than 12 states at a time, including the above-mentioned states.
10. The METO Council will oversee the daily operations of METO and will deal with complaints and the settlement of disputes.

11. During the first ten years of METO, the Executive Director will be elected by a special committee consisting of the directors general of IAEA, OPCW, CTBTO and Under-Secretary General of UNODA, and this election will require ratification by the METO GA. During the first ten years, the Executive Director will not be a citizen of a state within the region, and METO itself will be hosted by an impartial state outside the region.
12. METO will consist of:
 - a. a department for capacity building, working with universities from the region and international organizations, to ensure strong and informed regional teams of inspectors and scientists, able to work together, update their knowledge and conduct research and inspections.
 - b. a nuclear department, working with the IAEA, CTBTO and UNODA on regional inspections, safety, security, safeguards and verification. With the regional security department, the nuclear department will oversee the regional nuclear fuel bank.
 - c. a chemical department, working with the OPCW and UNODA, will operate oversight of commercial chemical use, updates regarding materials, as well as antidotes and resilience, and will develop robust capacities for emergency response and medical help within the region, for any chemical attack or accident. With the regional security department, the chemical department will monitor usage of CW by non-state actors.
 - d. a biological department working closely with the BTWC Implementation Support Unit, UNODA and international experts on the assimilation of the composite text.
 - e. a regional security department, comprising diplomats and experts, focusing on means of delivery, mutual alarm systems, military collaboration, regional seminars, promoting of regional discourse, mapping regional threats and the guarding of the regional nuclear bank (RNB).
13. METO experts, with the IAEA, will establish a a regional nuclear fuel regulator at METO headquarters, to deal with all transfer of radioactive material entering the zone and fissile material leaving the zone. METO, with the IAEA, will manage the regional fuel bank, as long as it remains outside the region itself.
14. METO experts will advise states about safe disposal methods for hazardous materials.

15. METO will host a team of experts on renewable energy to promote regional cooperation on renewable energy facilities.
16. METO will actively promote signature and ratification of the CTBT, the CWC, BTWC, NPT and TPNW.
17. METO will collaborate with states and civil society organizations in the pursuit of the objective of a world free of nuclear weapons.
18. METO will offer guidance to states regarding their annual reports to the IAEA, OPCW and the BTWC and update them on any changes in policies or lists of approved or forbidden materials.
19. METO will inform and seek redress from the UN Security Council of any suspicion or an attempt by a state from outside the region to operate within the region in breach of the treaty.
20. METO will periodically host civil society working groups from within the region and outside it.

Annex VI
Complaints procedure and settlement of disputes

1. A State Party to this treaty which has grounds for a complaint against another party to this treaty or its protocol shall bring the issue to the attention of the METO Council.
2. The METO Council will inform the state in question and will request that it provide an explanation within thirty days.
3. If the matter is not resolved, the METO Council may ask the state in question for a special technical inspection team.
 - a. Before sending the special inspection team, METO will indicate the tasks and objectives of such inspection.
 - b. Each state in question shall give the inspection team full and free access to all information and places within each territory that the inspectors deem relevant for implementing the inspection.
 - c. The State in question will take all appropriate steps to facilitate the work of the inspection team, and will grant them the same privileges and immunities of UN/IAEA/OPCW representatives.
 - d. The inspection team will submit its findings in writing as soon as possible (but within 14 working days) to the METO Council with supporting evidence and documentation and will state its conclusions. The Council will report fully to all States Parties to the treaty, giving its decision as to whether the state in question is in breach of its obligations under this treaty.
 - e. If the Council considers that the state in question is in breach, the METO GA will convene a special urgent meeting.
 - f. The METO GA will make recommendations to the State Party in question and will inform the UN Security Council.
 - g. The costs involved in the procedure outlined above shall be borne by METO. However, in the case of any vexatious accusations or breach of treaty, METO will have the power to levy a fine on the state concerned to recover the costs of the inspections. In case of repeat abuse, other sanctions will be imposed on the abusing state, such as fines covering the full cost of the process including the special METO GA meeting, or a three-month ban from the Council.

.....

Date, Place

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....