

Nuclear non-proliferation in the Gulf

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Agenda

Day 1

Session 1: The Road to 2015 - the NPT Action Plan

The global nuclear diplomatic context... How can states best cooperate to achieve progress in strengthening non-proliferation and facilitating disarmament in the NPT context? What would the Gulf States be looking for from the NWS to show progress on the disarmament ticket? What are the drivers that will encourage the Gulf states to participate in leading the NPT agenda to 2015, and how can they do it? What has been achieved so far on the 2010 NPT review conference Action Plan, and where are the most promising areas for prioritising efforts? How can differences on the Additional Protocol and other measures that attempt to close gaps in the non-proliferation net be overcome? What about treaty hold-outs, including Pakistan, India and Israel?

Dr. Mustafa Alani, Gulf Research Centre

H.E. Dr. Seyed Hossein Mousavian, Princeton University

Dr. Patricia Lewis, International Security Research Director, Chatham House

Session 2: Regional approaches to Iran's nuclear program

The Iran nuclear file in 2013: Is Iran's challenge to the discrimination embedded in the non-proliferation regime one that has sympathy in the region? What are the relevant over-riding regional security and proliferation concerns in the region, and what are the differences in perspectives and response amongst the Gulf states? What measures are most likely to be effective in states maintaining their commitments to the NPT? Is there a chance to develop an official cross-Gulf dialogue on nuclear non-proliferation and cooperation over nuclear energy programmes?

Dr. Kayhan Barzegar, Director, Institute for Middle East Strategic Studies, Tehran

H.E. Baron Paul von Maltzahn, Executive Vice President, German Council on Foreign Relations

Session 3: The efficacy of nuclear deterrence in the Gulf

What forms of nuclear deterrence might be contemplated by states in the region over the next two to three decades? Could extended deterrence arrangements become formalised and how desirable would that be? If any states in the region were to achieve nuclear threshold status what are the likely policy options of neighbouring states? What are the dangers/implications for states pursuing nuclear weapon capabilities for regional security?

Mr. Ward Wilson, Director of the Rethinking Nuclear Weapons Project, BASIC
Dr. Matthew Moran, Centre for Science and Security Studies, King's College London
Mr. Paul Schulte, Non-Resident Senior Associate, Carnegie Europe and Carnegie Nuclear Policy and Visiting Senior Research Fellow Centre for Science and Security Studies (CSSS), KCL- London

Day 2

Session 4: A WMD-free zone in the Middle East

Prospects for the Helsinki conference: where do things stand? Can Gulf states play a proactive role in persuading the Americans (and thus Israelis) of the importance of this initiative for their security, and giving suitable assurances to achieve engagement? How can ME states apply political leverage without threatening good will necessary for the conference and for the NPT? What has happened to the Gulf nuclear weapon-free zone proposal? What are the realistic ambitions for the conference and the process subsequently in the context of the NPT review process? Is it time to be talking of a treaty, or better to build up the elements of a zone independently? Would a regional FMCT or some other limits to fuel cycle activities be a stage in the process, and can such talks start sooner?

H.E. Nabil Fahmy, Dean, School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, American University Cairo

Brig. Gen. Hassan Saleh Al-Nesf, Vice Chairman, Qatar National Committee for Prohibition of Weapons

Dr. Ayman Khalil, Director, Arab Institute for Security Studies, Jordan

Session 5: Implications for 2013 Preparatory Committee

What is the atmosphere likely to hold for the Preparatory Committee – where will be the sticking issues? What are the likely alliances that will fall out and where will the NAM be under the chairmanship of Iran? How can the issues discussed in this conference play in Geneva next month?

Prof. Nasser Hadian, Professor of Political Sciences, University of Tehran

H.E. Dr. Mahmoud Karem, Secretary-General, National Human Rights Council, Egypt

Closing remarks- Mr. Paul Ingram, Executive Director, BASIC