



# THE METO PROJECT

## FOR A ZONE FREE OF WMD IN THE MIDDLE EAST

### June 2019 Q2 newsletter

Dear friends of the METO project,

Here is our latest newsletter, giving you all the latest updates on how our project is developing. Before that, though, we would like to announce that **our next online roundtable will take place on the 8<sup>th</sup> of July at 1300 GMT for 2 hours.** The roundtable will discuss the issues surrounding the November UN Conference on the zone. More information and formal invitations will follow, but please email Paul at [paul@wmd-free.me](mailto:paul@wmd-free.me) with expressions of interest in participating and ideas to contribute to the discussions. Much has been written about how Israel and the United States will not turn up and what the challenges are, but there is still everything to play for, and we have waited many years for this conference.

OK, so now for news. Firstly, many of us in the project and our supporters were in New York in May during the days of the NPT Prepcom and we were able to have an excellent panel, hosted by the Irish MFA, which you can read about [here](#). We were delighted that Jordan's Ambassador Sima Sami Bahous attended as she will be chairing the November UN conference on the subject of the Middle East Zone. We were also delighted to be able to distribute the latest version of the Draft Treaty (included in this e-mail), and we welcome any and all comments and suggestions.

Since the NPT Prepcom, we have been working on rolling out a new and vital aspect of our project, namely our education programme. After several of our project's core members participated in meetings in Cyprus in April, it became apparent that there is a great need to build capacity by working with students from the region, especially female students, interested in international relationships in the Middle East. To this end we are currently working on a series of workshops that will be delivered later on this year. If anyone would like to know more about this programme, please contact Emad at [emad@wmd-free.me](mailto:emad@wmd-free.me).

An urgent priority for the project now is to secure funds to enable at least two members of the core team to work on the project full time. We are therefore going through a phase of research into possible funders and the subsequent application process. If anyone has any ideas for sources of funding we would be very grateful to learn of them. Please contact Sharon at [sharon@wmd-free.me](mailto:sharon@wmd-free.me).

As you can see from the new e-mail addresses we're starting to use, we have advanced in our IT infrastructure and have launched the website [www.wmd-free.me](http://www.wmd-free.me) which is still very much in its infancy, but at least allows us to have an online presence and a home for the [Draft Treaty](#). We would like to take this opportunity to encourage all our friends and supporters to send us their op-eds which we would love to republish on this site. Over time, we'd like the site to really become a repository for all information related to the zone. For any comments or suggestions about the website, please contact [tony@wmd-free.me](mailto:tony@wmd-free.me).

Finally, we would like to congratulate Zain Hussain, who has been working with us a paid full time assistant, a QPSW worker based with BASIC for the last nine months. He is moving on to develop his career as a Specialized Researcher for Vigeo Eiris in Brussels. We're not saying goodbye to Zain, however, as he will still continue with the project in a personal capacity. His e-mail address is [zain@wmd-free.me](mailto:zain@wmd-free.me).

That's it for now. We hope this update finds you all well and we look forward to seeing you or hearing from you before the next newsletter. As always, if you'd prefer to not receive these updates just write to [meto@wmd-free.me](mailto:meto@wmd-free.me) and we'll remove you from our list.

With our warmest regards,

**The METO Project Core Team**