



Dear friends,

We hope this message finds you well.

Due to the busy schedule of the METO core group, we have been unable to send an update of the METO project's progress until now.

Following the roundtable in Zurich, we participated in a side event organised by Richard Lennane during the Biological Weapons Convention meetings in Geneva in August and we are looking forward to another side event there for the meeting between state parties in December. We are also planning to be at the meeting of States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention in The Hague, between the 21st and 30th of November this year.

In September, our Scottish friends organised international events in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Faslane in which Core team member participated. Janet Fenton, from CND Scotland, and Bill Kidd MSP organised an event in the Scottish parliament to present the METO project.

Also in September, We held two small working meetings in London hosted by Chatham House and King's College. We were aiming to hold roundtable meetings for up to 16 participants, with a majority of Middle Eastern participants. However, due to the inability of many participants from the region to acquire visas, we had to change the roundtables to working meetings. As a result of this experience, we have decided that future meetings should not be held in the UK. A short report on these roundtables, written by Zain Hussain (METO Project Core Group intern), is attached with this email.

We are working on outreach to international NGOs and governments that are willing to host more roundtables. Currently, it seems that we will be able to hold roundtables next year in Geneva and Berlin. Suggestions for other places in which we can hold roundtables are always welcome.

While in New York in October for UN First Committee meetings, Paul Ingram was able to talk with a number of delegations about the METO project. This was in the context of the new Arab resolution being circulated (and attached to this e-mail) just a few days before calling for an annual conference to be convened by the UN Secretary General, open to all state parties and operating by consensus.

In the technical area, Emad Kiyaei and Tony Robinson from the Core Group, are working on the new METO project website. We are also pursuing different possibilities for graphic design for our project logo. If you have any suggestions, we are open to ideas.

Furthermore, we are working hard on acquiring funding in order to secure our work for the coming year. All ideas and suggestions are welcome.

Finally, the Core Group is now fully prepared to continue work on the METO project after holidays, sick leave and travel. This email is to update you on these important developments. We hope to send out more regular updates in the future.

Kind Regards,

METO Project Core Group