



Period: June—December 2019

Dear Friends,

2019 was an exciting year for METO and our efforts to ‘Achieve the Possible’—a Middle East WMD Free Zone! Here is a quick summary of our activities for the second half of 2019: conferences, roundtables, publications, public outreach and capacity building programs.

Our team had a busy program attending major international disarmament conferences, where we presented METO’s evolving [Draft Treaty](#) and advocated for establishing the zone. From July to December, the METO team took part in the 2019 UN First Committee Meeting, the UN’s November Conference on the Zone, CWC Conference of States Parties, BWC Meeting of States Parties, and the EU Nonproliferation and Disarmament Consortium.

Continuing our collaborative work with international policy and strategy experts, we conducted two online roundtables in July and September to outline the opportunities and threats to the UN November Conference, and its potential impact on the 2020 NPT Review Conference. We reflected the outcomes of these deliberations and our approach to revise our concept note and include them in an impressive 11-page article in the Fall Issue of the Cairo Review. [Read the article here >>](#)

METO was among only a handful of civil society members to gain observer status to attend the first UN Conference on the Middle East WMD Free Zone, from 18 to 22 November 2019. This inaugural session of the conference—which has been in the making for decades—boasted participation from all states in the Middle East, with the exception of Israel. A [Political Declaration](#) was reached, with a commitment toward the zone and inclusive participation by all states in the region in subsequent conferences. [Read METO’s conference report for Reaching Critical Will here>>](#)

Meanwhile, we launched METO’s first educational seminar aimed at strengthening capacity building in disarmament and security among university students from the Middle East, in particular women. If you would like to learn more or join as a guest lecturer, please email us: meto@wmd-free.me

As part of our public outreach, we convened lively debates in Berlin and New York on pressing issues facing the Middle East, in partnership with international news agency Pressenza. [Read Pressenza’s coverage of the events here >>](#)

Finally, we would like to welcome our newest colleague, Dina Saadallah, who will lead our fundraising and development work, to ensure METO remains sustainable and effective! To discuss funding opportunities and ways to contribute to our work, please reach out to Dina: dina@wmd-free.me

We will update you all soon on our latest plans for 2020!

Peace,

METO Team