



Gulf Research Center
Knowledge for All

The Gulf as a WMD/NW free zone

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**Track II Initiative
GRC**

**Presentation by Dr. Mustafa Alani
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The Gulf : Geo – political & Geo – strategic 6 + 3 concept

- ❖ **The definition of the “ Gulf region “ in this proposal is the area consisting of the nine states of the geo-political Gulf region:**
- ❖ **Bahrain , Oman, Kuwait , Saudi Arabia , Qatar , United Arab Emirates , Iraq , Iran , and Yemen**



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Why the Gulf : A step by step sub-regional strategy

- ❖ **A successful WMDFZ in the greater Gulf (the '6+3') will provide the groundwork and the cornerstone for the expansion of such an arrangement to encompass the entire Middle East.**



Basic Facts for consideration

1. **So far, our failure to force an Israeli disarmament from its nuclear capability and therefore our inability to achieve the objective of declaring the entire Middle East as a Nuclear or WMD free zone should not be considered as an automatic and **open license** for other regional states to develop their WMD capability.**



Basic Facts for consideration

2. The dismantlement of Iraq WMD Capability

- ❖ **WMD threat from Iraq now removed, hopefully for ever, the rationalization and validation for WMD capability retention or development program by certain regional states has also been removed.**
- ❖ **the eventual removal of Saddam's regime from power has removed the roots of regional states anxiety and apprehension.**



Basic Facts for consideration

3. There is a basic technical and scientific argument that needs to be highlighted. An emergent regional nuclear power in the Gulf region **will NOT** be able to achieve **strategic parity with, or superiority** over whichever nuclear rival it envisages, regional or international.



Basic Facts for consideration

4. **To be part of a WMD free zone is not all sacrifice - all the nine states of the Gulf region have signed the majority of WMD disarmament treaties (whether it nuclear, chemical or biological)**
 - ❖ **the concept of "*negative security assurances*" from the extra –zonal states**



Basic Facts for consideration

5. The creation of WMD free zone in the Gulf would facilitate and help to promote the development of a lasting **multilateral regional security arrangement**



Basic Facts for consideration

6. Not every state in the region will necessarily be prepared to immediately participate in such an undertaking
 - ❖ There would naturally be an **'Open door agreement'** to encourage other nations' timely accession



WMD FZ : Development of the Concept

- 1. A regional or international think-tank suggesting or sponsoring The initial project**
- 2. Eventually bringing about support from one or more Regional governments, a favorable political environment in the Gulf will allow this project to shift from an informal 'Track II', to an official 'Track I' process.**



WMD FZ : Development of the Concept

- 3. These Government(s) establishing a consensus through a regional body or forum which solidified by way of a declaration,**
- 4. This declaration would be endorsed by the UN General Assembly**



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The Negative Scenario: A Gulf with Nuclear / WMD Weapon



Four Negative Scenarios

- 1. To do nothing, accept the new reality and seek to accommodate the new nuclear power and adapt to such an unwelcome fact**



Four Negative Scenarios

- 2. For regional states, collectively or individually to work quickly, with assistance from existing Nuclear Weapon States (NWSs) to acquire or develop a comparable or equivalent nuclear or WMD capability to establish a state of deterrence in the region. Thus restoring a balance of power.**



Four Negative Scenarios

- 3. For regional states, collectively or individually, to enter into an alliance with an existing NWS, which would be able to provide Gulf nations with a 'nuclear umbrella'**



Four Negative Scenarios

- 4. For regional states to lend support, directly or indirectly, overtly or covertly, to a third party carrying out a military and/or intelligence action to disrupt the emergent nuclear capability.**



Final Positive Scenario

For regional states to work, multilaterally, towards the establishment of a WMD-Free Zone in the region based on The existing regional consensus for the prevention of a non-conventional arms race