



# *LMUN 2026*

A Background Guide for:  
**Organization of Islamic Cooperation**



# LMUN 2026

**OIC | Iran's Nuclear Weapons**

**Chair: Luna Jervis**

**Co-Chair: Luciana Benavides**



## **Letter from the chairs:**

### ***Chair:***

Greetings delegates,

My name is Luna Jervis, and it is a privilege to serve as your chair for this committee, where we will explore the critical issues surrounding the nuclear weapons in Iran. My experiences in Model UN throughout middle and high school have allowed me to grow and strengthen my skills, and I am truly eager to witness the passion and insights you will bring to the debate. We are united by a shared commitment to shaping a better world, and I am confident that you will offer thoughtful solutions, create compelling articles, and engage in a meaningful debate. I look forward to the 30th edition of Model UN, and I am excited to see your innovative ideas. Let's work together to make this an exceptional experience!

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### ***Co-chair:***

Hello, my name is Luciana Benavides, and I'm delighted to be accompanying you throughout this learning journey! I hope we make this conference memorable. This will be my 6<sup>th</sup> MUN and first time co-chairing; however, I certainly hope it's the first of many. We chose this topic as we wanted to create a unique committee based on something never seen before, while focusing on recurring issues. Feel free to contact me through my email anytime. Also, be sure that we will be available at all times. If you want feedback on your Position Paper previous to the inauguration of the conference, you can send it via email, and we will make sure to provide you with the best feedback possible. Good luck to all of you!

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## **Topic Introduction:**

In June 2025, regional tensions in the Middle East escalated after Israel launched military strikes on Iran's nuclear and military infrastructure, stating that it could put Israel's safety at risk (France 24, 2025). Although the Israeli government framed the operation as a preventive measure against a potential Iranian nuclear weapon, Iran has not publicly confirmed its possession of nuclear weapons, creating uncertainty about its intentions and capabilities (International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], 2025). The attacks led to counterattacks, global criticism, and concern about regional stability (France 24, 2025).

Globalists are deeply concerned about the risk of an even broader conflict. Many international organisations have expressed alarm that the confrontation could become a conflict with outside powers involving further military escalation (United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs [UN DPPA], 2025). Analysts emphasise that poor communication or misunderstanding can lead to high tensions, especially in countries with nuclear weapons, and can lead to unexpected consequences (UN DPPA, 2025).

This situation presents critical challenges for the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). As a collective voice for Muslim-majority states, the OIC must deal with regional security, stopping the spread of nuclear weapons, and promoting peaceful solutions through diplomacy (OIC, 2025). Member states have called for respect for international law while urging renewed diplomatic engagement to prevent a catastrophic spread of nuclear dangers and urging regional security, nuclear non-proliferation, and pathways to a diplomatic resolution (“Iran Warns of Measured Response to ‘Israeli’ Aggression at OIC Summit - Islam Times”).



## **Committee Background:**

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, otherwise referred to as OIC, is a 57-state, intergovernmental organisation covering four continents, which makes it the second-largest intergovernmental organisation globally, after the United Nations (UN). Established in 1969, the OIC's primary mission is to protect the interests of the Muslim world and promote international peace, solidarity, and cooperation. In recent months, the OIC has been confronted with a severe escalation of tensions in the Middle East, which followed Israel's full-scale military attack on Iran's nuclear and military facilities in June 2025. Israel justified this attack as a preventive measure against what it sees as an existential threat, raising suspicions that Iran's nuclear program might have proceeded towards weaponisation. Nevertheless, Iran neither confirms nor denies acquiring nuclear weapons, increasing uncertainty and stoking region-wide instability. The aftermath of this attack has tremendously escalated the fear of a deeper regional war. As international powers divide and inter-state communication escalates, the risk of miscalculation or unintended escalation appears larger. Experts note that further deterioration might ignite a spiral of retaliatory actions with disastrous effects, even involving the deployment of nuclear weapons. For the OIC, the case constitutes a deep challenge which entails striding a thin line between the principles of sovereignty of nations, collective security, and settlement of disputes peaceably, in a region already fraught with war and mutual mistrust. As the collective voice of the Muslim world, the OIC plays a vital role in the enhancement of dialogue, a call for restraint, and promotion of diplomatic solutions, towards averting further escalation. This crisis highlights a need for the OIC for enhanced mechanisms for the prevention of war, adherence to international law, and a call for region-wide cooperation towards ensuring stability, peace, and non-proliferation of nuclear warheads.



## Key Terms:

- **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA):** An independent international organisation that promotes the peaceful use of nuclear energy and monitors nuclear programs to ensure they are not used for nuclear weapons development.
- **Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT):** A 1968 international treaty aimed at preventing the spread of nuclear weapons, promoting peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and advancing nuclear disarmament.
- **Twelve-Day War:** A brief conflict primarily between Israel and Hamas that occurred over twelve days, influencing regional security dynamics and discussions on nuclear stability in the Middle East. The latest one is taking place in June 2025.
- **JCPOA snapback mechanism:** A 2015 agreement between Iran, the EU, and major world powers aimed at limiting Iran's nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief.
- **UN resolution 2231:** The resolution that endorsed the JCPOA in 2015 and established the framework for lifting and potentially reinstating sanctions on Iran.
- **Bushehr:** Iran's first civilian nuclear energy facility, developed for electricity generation under international observation.
- **Natanz and Arak:** Major Iranian nuclear sites — Natanz is associated with uranium enrichment, while Arak contains a heavy-water reactor capable of producing plutonium by-products.
- **2025 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA 2.0):** A provision allowing any party to the JCPOA to reimpose UN sanctions on Iran if the agreement is believed to be violated, without requiring a vote.
- **Scrutiny:** Close monitoring or inspection of nuclear activities to ensure compliance with international agreements.



- **Proliferation:** The spread or increase of nuclear weapons, materials, or technology to states or non-state actors.
- **Sovereignty:** A state's right to govern itself without external interference, often cited in debates about nuclear development.
- **Non-ratifiers:** States that have not signed or ratified a treaty, meaning they are not legally bound by its obligations.
- **Deterrence:** The strategy of preventing conflict by maintaining the capability to respond with strong or damaging force, including nuclear weapons.
- **Stringent:** Describes rules, inspections, or conditions that are extremely strict or demanding.

### **History and Context:**

The roots of the current crisis trace back to longstanding tensions which surround Iran's nuclear program. Since the early 2000s, Iran has faced international inspection over its nuclear activities, which proclaim that they are solely for peaceful energy production. However, Western nations, especially the United States and Israel, have long accused Iran of seeking to acquire nuclear weapons.

To resolve these tensions, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has historically employed a "dual-track" approach (Davenport). This involved a series of restrictive resolutions (such as Resolution 1737 and Resolution 1929), which imposed targeted sanctions on Iran's banking and shipping sectors to compel compliance. These moves eventually culminated in the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), endorsed by UNSC Resolution 2231 ("UN Security Council to Meet over Iran's Stockpile of



Uranium”). This historic accord between Iran and key world powers established strict restrictions on Iran's nuclear program in return for the removal of economic sanctions.

In 2018, the United States withdrawal from the JCPOA under the Trump administration restored tension, with Iran gradually lessening compliance with the accord in response to the reinstatement of sanctions. This pattern of mistrust has continued for years, with diplomatic talks continuously hitting a roadblock. The affair took a turn for the worse with reports of Iran expanding enrichment of uranium beyond JCPOA restrictions, reaching levels near the 60% threshold (“UN Security Council to Meet over Iran’s Stockpile of Uranium”). Israel, seeing a nuclear-equipped Iran as a threat to its existence, has continuously warned that it could not abide such a scenario.

Its June 2025 attack was the hostile step so far in such a long-running saga, targeting what it alleged were facilities directly involved in Iran's arsenal program. Iran denounced the attack as an act of war and promised counterattacks, heightening fears of a broader, region-wide war involving neighbouring countries and world powers. For the OIC, such events have profound significance since many of its member states have close religious, political, or commercial links with Iran, while others have security alliances with Western countries or Israel. This range of viewpoints makes the OIC's role as a broker both difficult and indispensable. The organization has to navigate intricate alliances to facilitate a stepping back, avoid the further spread of nukes, and confirm its devotion to peace, diplomacy, and international multilateralism.

Previously, the OIC and the ONU have intervened in providing possible solutions to address the issue. The ONU has found various solutions, including different strategies such as the Dual-track strategy, which consists of focusing on targeted sanctions and legal restrictions, with the offer of political and economic normalization for Iran, only if they



accept limits. Simultaneously, the OIC has also helped with this issue, acting as a neutral ground for the conflict to progress.

### **Current Situation:**

June 13, 2025, was the outbreak of the Twelve-Day War. This conflict concluded with a ceasefire on June 24, but had a political fallout which peaked on July 2, 2025, when Iran's President, Masoud Pezeshkian, signed a law suspending cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) until "the security of nuclear facilities is guaranteed" (Al Jazeera; Reuters). The law was approved by both the Iranian parliament and the Guardian Council, which stopped international inspections and reports on Iran's nuclear program. This marks the biggest change in Iran's nuclear policy since it joined the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in 1970.

This decision came soon after the Twelve-Day War, when Israel and the United States carried out airstrikes on Iran's nuclear sites in Natanz, Fordow, and Isfahan (Reuters). Although the level of damage is still unclear, the attacks created debates on the direction of Iran's nuclear program (Wintour). Iranian officials stated that the suspension does not mean cutting ties with the IAEA completely, but future cooperation should have new safety measures.

In the medical industry, these facilities produce over 60 different radiopharmaceuticals like Molybdenum-99, which are essential for cancer diagnosis and heart imaging for millions of patients (World Nuclear Association). Additionally, the agricultural industry relies on nuclear techniques for pest control and food sterilisation, while the energy sector views nuclear power as a way to free up fossil fuels for export, which are



vital for the national economy (IAEA; World Nuclear Association). The damage to these sites creates a chain reaction, threatening healthcare and food security across the region (Wintour).

As a response, Britain, France, and Germany reactivated the JCPOA snapback mechanism, which brought back United Nations sanctions that had been lifted in 2015. This is tied to the expiration of restrictions under UN resolution 2231. This portrays how Iran's new actions could potentially affect the global trust in nuclear agreements and non-proliferation norms (Nuclear Threat Initiative).

Some experts have compared Iran's nuclear power to Israel yet Israel refuses to confirm their possession of nuclear weapons. This unverified nuclear control has worked on Israel's behalf since it has strong Western alliances, advanced technology, and it has strict information control. On the other hand, Iran faces exposed facilities, intelligence leaks, and weak alliances (Azizi).

Hardliners celebrate the new law as the beginning of a "period of silence and uncertainty," believing it will intimidate enemies. Some Iranians want the Supreme Leader to cancel his fatwa that bans nuclear weapons. Others argue that copying Israeli tactics would increase Iran's isolation and risk of more attacks, making it more vulnerable. Russia and China have not supported Iran's move to secrecy, fearing it could destabilise the country. Meanwhile, the United States and Israel view Iran's lack of transparency as a threat and say they may act again if Iran continues to conceal program information. Rather than protecting Iran, nuclear ambiguity could lead to another conflict. Iran's lack of stability and support, which makes the opacity successful, may end up more vulnerable (Azizi).

The United States and Israel view Iran's lack of transparency as a direct threat and have signaled that they may act again if the program remains concealed. Rather than offering



protection, nuclear ambiguity may lead to another conflict. Experts suggest that starting gradual transparency, rebuilding dialogue with Europe and the United States, and working alongside the IAEA under safer conditions is a sustainable path towards protection (World Nuclear Association; Nuclear Threat Initiative).

## **Case Studies**

### **Case Study 1: How the Islamic Revolution Affected Iran’s Nuclear Power Program:**

The 1979 Islamic Revolution completely transformed Iran’s nuclear program, changing it from a Western-supported project into a symbol of independence and national pride (Wintour; Euro Prospects). Before the revolution, Iran’s nuclear ambitions were part of the Shah’s goal to make the country a modernized industrial power. Through the United States program “Atoms for Peace”, Iran received Western assistance to build nuclear plants like Bushehr, and nuclear energy represented progress and global respect (Euro Prospects).

After the revolution, the new Islamic Republic rejected Western influence and discontinued nearly all nuclear programs. Foreign experts left the country, and the alliance with the United States and Europe ended (Euro Prospects). According to *The Evolution of Iran’s Nuclear Program: From Cooperation to Controversy*, the new leaders viewed nuclear development as a symbol of Western corruption and dependency (Europrospects). For a time, nuclear energy lost importance as the government focused on ideological purity and political survival (Wintour).

This ideology changed drastically in the Iran-Iraq War (1980-1988). Iran realised its vulnerability and began to view nuclear technology as a way to ensure national security and self-reliance after facing chemical attacks and internal isolation. During the 1990s, Iran rebuilt its nuclear infrastructure, trained local scientists, and secretly expanded its enrichment capabilities. When facilities like Natanz and Arak were introduced in 2002, the international



community became alarmed, leading to sanctions and years of tension with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) (World Nuclear Association; Nuclear Threat Initiative).

By this point, Iran's nuclear programme became tied with their national identity. For many Iranians, the right to develop nuclear technology symbolises resistance to foreign control. Offers from other countries to supply nuclear fuel were often rejected since they were seen as a limitation for Iran's independence (Azizi).

In the Islamic Republic, generations of political leaders have debated on how far to pursue the program. Older revolutionary leaders view nuclear autonomy as essential for survival, while younger leaders see it as a path toward modernization and international respect (Wintour). These differences influenced Iran's acceptance of the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which limited enrichment in exchange for sanctions relief (Euro Prospects). However, the United States withdrew from the agreement in 2018, and hardline leaders regained their power, and argued that the West is not to be trusted (Azizi).

The Islamic Revolution changed Iran's nuclear program from Western-led to a symbol of sovereignty. The combination of ideologies, wartime trauma, and political division made nuclear development central to Iran's identity. Nuclear power represents a free nation from foreign domination (Wintour; Azizi).

### **Case Study 2: The Challenges of Nuclear Non-Proliferation in the OIC:**

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) comprises 57 states and faces significant challenges balancing nuclear treaty obligations with regional security concerns. These challenges are intensified by Israel's undeclared nuclear arsenal, which exists outside the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) framework and contributes to perceptions of unequal enforcement of global norms. Many OIC countries are signatories to this treaty, but



their nuclear policies are shaped by regional tensions, internal political debates, and competing geopolitical pressures. This case study outlines the main factors that influence the OIC states' approaches to nuclear non-proliferation and peaceful nuclear development.

### **Challenges Faced by OIC Member States**

1. **Regional Security and Unequal Norms:** The existence of Israel's undeclared nuclear arsenal, not a signatory to the NPT, underscores the regional disparity regarding the nuclear norms. This double standard complicates negotiations and undermines trust, making OIC states question the fairness of global non-proliferation regimes.
2. **Compliance and Enforcement Difficulties:** While most member states fully support the NPT, enforcement has remained inconsistent as some countries have had partial or delayed ratification of IAEA safeguards agreements or lack comprehensive verification systems. This weakens the multilateral monitoring framework and raises the risk of clandestine **proliferation** activities.
3. **Global Power Dynamics and Political Pressures:** Global powers exert influence over OIC nations' nuclear policies. In Western countries, they often push for strict compliance, while China and Russia tend to advocate for regional stability over **stringent** enforcement, even sometimes supporting the states' rights to develop peaceful nuclear energy.
4. **Internal Political and Ideological Divides:** Within some OIC countries, internal debates about nuclear autonomy versus adherence to international norms persist. Leaders supporting nuclear independence argue it's vital for **sovereignty** and regional security, whereas others emphasize treaty commitments and global cooperation.



## **The Role of International Frameworks**

OIC countries actively engage in treaties and initiatives like the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), with many supporting its ratification to enhance regional and global security. However, as some member states remain **non-ratifiers** or have incomplete safeguards agreements, the effectiveness of these instruments is limited, posing risks of proliferation.

## **The Path Forward: Balancing Sovereignty and Global Norms**

The ongoing debate revolves around whether OIC countries should pursue independent nuclear policies for regional security and sovereignty or fully comply with global treaties. Some key considerations include the following:

1. Supporting regional stability: Some argue that nuclear capability or autonomy is necessary for **deterrence** against regional threats, like Israel's nuclear arsenal.
2. Upholding international credibility: Full adherence to NPT and IAEA safeguards solidifies global efforts to prevent proliferation and reinforces the credibility of international law.

## **Bloc Positions**

### **Middle East and Gulf States Bloc:**

- Members: Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Jordan, Lebanon
- Interests: Regional security and stability, counter-terrorism, political influence in the Arab world, economic reliance on oil exports, and maintaining alliances with Western and regional powers.



- Policy Stance: Advocate for strong, unified stances on combating terrorism, supporting Palestine statehood, protecting sovereignty against external interference, and ensuring energy security.
- Diplomatic Approach: Assertive and coalition-building within the Arab and Muslim world, open to pragmatic alliances, heavily focused on security cooperation.

### **North Africa Bloc**

- Members: Egypt, Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia, Sudan
- Interests: Political stability, democratic reforms, economic development, counter terrorism, and cultural cooperation.
- Policy Stance: Support initiatives aimed at peacekeeping, development aid, combating extremism, and enhanced cooperation within African and Arab Muslim states.
- Diplomatic Approach: Often mediatory and cooperative, balancing between regional powers, prioritizing development and reform.

### **Sub-Saharan Africa Bloc**

- Members: Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, Mali, Niger
- Interests: Development assistance, peacekeeping efforts, fighting extremism, improving education, and infrastructure.
- Policy Stance: Advocate for increased international support to combat poverty and terrorism, focus on sustainable development and regional stability.
- Diplomatic Approach: Collaborative with international partners, emphasizing humanitarian and development causes.



### **South Asia & Central Asia Bloc**

- Members: Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan
- Interests: Regional security, border stability, economic cooperation, education, and combating extremism.
- Policy Stance: Promote stability in conflict zones, advocate for economic integration, and emphasize educational exchange and cooperation.
- Diplomatic Approach: Strategic, often cautious, seeking alliances that favor stability and economic opportunities.

### **Southeast Asia Bloc**

- Members: Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei
- Interests: Interfaith dialogue, economic growth, environmental concerns, and social harmony.
- Policy Stance: Advocate for peaceful coexistence, environmental sustainability, and economic cooperation within the Muslim world.
- Diplomatic Approach: Diplomatic and consensus-building, focused on soft power and sustainable development.

### **Possible Solutions**

A path to achieve solutions is the negotiation of an improved nuclear agreement with Iran. This could be either replacing or supplementing the 2015 JCPOA (Euro Prospects; Wintour). Analysts at the Institute for Science and International Security (ISIS) recommend imposing permanent limits on uranium enrichment, which requires the disposal or a conversation with Iran on the possible reduction of stockpiles. This strategy emphasises a strong verification of a regime consisting of more inspections; this is crucial to ensure



compliance and build international trust (World Nuclear Association). Diplomatically involving a third-party country could also be a strategy to increase trust. Having countries that could invest or monitor nuclear enrichment makes Iran gain legitimacy for its nuclear program, ensuring it remains peaceful (Nuclear Threat Initiative; World Nuclear Association). Any deal made with Iran should include a sanction mechanism. For instance, if Iran violates, international sanctions must be imposed (Nuclear Threat Initiative; Euro Prospects). Analysts recommend balancing sanctions in order for Iran to have credible incentives for cooperation (Azizi). Effective diplomacy is not just about closed-door negotiations; for it to be effective, it has to be public and transparent as well. By having a clear negotiation with Iran, its regional partners, and the international community, negotiators can build legitimacy and reduce the risk of backsliding. Many agree that diplomacy is the most effective variable to pave the way forward (Wintour; Nuclear Threat Initiative).

Another possible solution is to create regional security and confidence-building measures that involve Iran, Israel, and the Middle Eastern neighbouring countries. Rather than focusing on agreements, this approach aims to reduce tensions, prevent misunderstandings, and lower the risk of military escalation (Nuclear Threat Initiative). Experts argue that many conflicts escalate because of miscalculation or lack of communication, especially in high-tension regions with military capabilities (United Nations). The use of direct communication channels, like military hotlines or crisis management mechanisms, may prevent accidental escalation during conflicts (UN Office for Disarmament Affairs). Transparency measures may also help build trust and reduce fear (World Nuclear Association). Additionally, analysts support the long-term goal of a Middle East Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (MENWFZ). While it's difficult to implement in the short-term, gradual steps toward this objective could enhance regional stability (Nuclear Threat Initiative). The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has repeatedly supported



initiatives that aim for collective regional security and non-proliferation, emphasizing diplomacy over military action (OIC). Strengthening regional cooperation and communication does not replace diplomacy, but it complements it by addressing the broader security environment that fueled nuclear suspicion. This approach reduces the chances of conflict escalation while encouraging long-term peace and stability in the Middle East (United Nations; Nuclear Threat Initiative).

### **Questions a Possible Solution Must Answer**

1. What mechanisms can ensure that any revised nuclear agreement with Iran imposes permanent and verifiable limits on uranium enrichment?
2. How should the international community negotiate the reduction of Iran's enriched uranium while respecting its right to peaceful nuclear energy?
3. What role should enhanced inspections and verification play in future agreements, and which international bodies should be responsible for overseeing them?
4. How can third-party countries or organizations be diplomatically integrated into the monitoring process in order to increase transparency and trust between states?
5. What types of sanction mechanisms should be included in a renewed agreement to ensure compliance without discouraging Iranian cooperation?
6. How can the international community balance sanctions with credible incentives for Iran to remain compliant?
7. What steps can be taken to make diplomatic negotiations more transparent to regional partners as well as the global community while protecting sensitive information?
8. In what ways can public diplomacy contribute to building trust and legitimacy around a new or improved nuclear agreement?



9. How can member states address the risk of Iran's potential non-compliance and prevent the avoidance of commitments once a deal is signed?
10. What safeguards should be included to ensure that Iran's nuclear program remains peaceful under any revised agreement?
11. How might regional dynamics, especially within OIC member states, affect support for, or resistance to, a new nuclear agreement framework?
12. What incentives should a third-party or international actor offer (economic, political, scientific) to strengthen Iran's commitment to neutrality and transparency?



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