



**Mission Viejo High School Model United Nations**  
**29<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**  
***“Through the Fire the Spirit is Forged”***

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IAEA

Iranian Weapons Program

**I. Background of Topic**

The first distinction that has to be made when dealing with a topic of nuclear energy is that between countries that have nuclear power and nuclear weapons. Countries that have nuclear power are the ones that are prominently known for powering cities with nuclear energy. Countries with nuclear weapons, on the other hand, are using nuclear technology for defense as opposed to having a focus only on power. According to Discover News, European nations such as France, Lithuania, and Slovakia are utilizing nuclear technology for energy purposes. However, countries that possess nuclear weapons are: U.S.A., France, U.K., Russia, India, Pakistan, Israel, and China. There has been much controversy in the past, as to whether Iran has a developing weapons program, or not. Iran has repeatedly stated that their program is for the sole purpose of energy, but there is much doubt, especially from the United States about the validity of this claim. In recent years, the world nuclear inspection agency has made a claim that Iran is in fact creating technology for detonating nuclear weapons. This nuclear threat, however, is not one that is faced at the moment, but instead one that will arrive in a few years time as Iran increases its nuclear facilities and capabilities. The main players in this situation are Iran, the United States, and Israel. Iran's weapons program is a direct threat to neighboring Israel, but Israel views the threat to be a distant one. The United States has also been very involved as it has time and time again attempted to impede Iran's development of nuclear weapons.



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## **II. UN Involvement**

The United Nations has been quite involved in the matter of Iran’s weapons program.

Resolution 1696 was a direct response to Iran’s program and demanded that Iran stop enriching Uranium. When Iran did not meet the deadlines set by Resolution 1696 in ending their nuclear program, Resolution 1737 was passed to implement a penalty upon Iran for its disobedience of the United Nations. Thus, Iran was hit by sanctions that blocked it from receiving supplies for nuclear weapons. A following Resolution 1747 furthered this sentiment as other types of weapons were banned from being sold or bought from Iran.

Resolution 1803 issues a notice to Iran that it had no option but to stop researching Uranium enrichment techniques and technologies. Resolution 1835 restated what had been mentioned in previous resolutions and also acknowledged that Iran was openly disobeying all of the resolutions. Lastly, Resolution 1929 decided that Iran was to be held under increased sanctions and was in response to Iran’s continued disregard for the previous UN resolutions.

## **III. Possible Solutions**

One solution that may occur in order to keep Iran in line with international will, is that sanctions are increased on Iran to discourage further funding of their weapons program. Increased international pressure may have the desired effect and force Iran to cooperate. If overall pressure does not cause Iran to cave, then negotiations must be made that provide a small fraction of what Iran’s government wants, but in the long run works to benefit the rest of the international community. Experts from the Stanley Foundation have stated that Western nations must follow various steps in order to reach success including leaving any



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hatred of the theocracy out of negotiations, veering from attacking nuclear facilities, helping bolster the Iranian economy in other ways, and to help alleviate tensions between Israel and Iran. Solutions to the issue are varied and depend on the delegate’s country’s view of the issue. Therefore, the array of solutions presented may be vast and unique.

#### **IV. Block Positions**

1. European Bloc- This bloc is the most opposed to an Iranian nuclear program, especially one that involves weapons.
2. African Bloc- The African Bloc tends to be supportive of nuclear power for energy purposes rather than weaponry.
3. Asian Bloc- Asian countries would rather not allow nuclear technology to be harnessed for creating weapons.
4. Latin Bloc- The Latin American Bloc also is in favor of nuclear technology for non-weapon related objectives.
5. Middle Eastern Bloc- Most countries tend to support Iran in its endeavors.

#### **V. Guiding Questions**

1. What dangers does the Iranian weapons program pose to your country?
2. For what purposes should countries be allowed to use nuclear technology?
3. Is the current system of regulation of nuclear technology the right one?
4. Should nations compromise with Iran or subject it to international will?
5. What motivations are there for Iran to not have a weapons program?



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