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MES: Topic 1 - Iranian Proxy Activity

YUNMUN XXXIV

The issue of Iranian proxy activity in the Middle East has remained a significant concern for the international community for decades. Iran's support for various proxy groups and its interference in the internal affairs of neighboring countries have not only destabilized the region but also posed a serious threat to global security.

Iran has a long history of supporting and arming proxy groups in the Middle East, including Hezbollah in Lebanon¹, the Houthis in Yemen, and various Shiite militias in Iraq, among others. These proxy groups are often used to further Iranian interests and extend their influence in the region. Their activities have contributed to sectarian conflicts, terrorism, and the undermining of the sovereignty of neighboring countries.

The international community, including the United Nations and various regional organizations, has made several efforts to address the issue of Iranian proxy activity in the Middle East. These efforts have included sanctions, diplomatic negotiations, and the deployment of military forces. This includes the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) of 2015, which, while not directly addressing Iranian proxy activities, aimed to reduce tensions in the region. Additionally, the United States² and other countries have imposed sanctions to pressure Iran to change its behavior. Sanctions have targeted individuals, organizations, and sectors that support or are affiliated with Iranian proxy groups. Some countries, such as Saudi Arabia and the UAE, have engaged in military operations against Iranian-backed militias in Yemen and elsewhere to counter Iranian influence³. Efforts have also been made to engage Iran in regional diplomacy to address conflicts and security concerns in the Middle East, with varying degrees of success.

To effectively address the issue of Iranian proxy activity in the Middle East, you, the delegates of the Middle East Summit, must consider the following:

¹ <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/1057610X.2018.1506560>

² <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/article/irans-islamist-proxies>

³ <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-42008809>

- What are the main motivations and objectives behind Iran's support for proxy groups in the Middle East, and how do these activities impact regional stability and security?
- What is the role of international sanctions in deterring Iran's support for proxy groups, and how effective have these measures been in the past?
- How can the international community balance the need to prevent Iranian interference in the region with the importance of engaging Iran in diplomatic efforts to address regional conflicts?
- What are the prospects for regional security and stability in the Middle East, and how can countries in the region work together to address the issue of Iranian proxy activity?
- How can the international community promote de-escalation and confidence-building measures in the region to reduce tensions and the influence of Iranian proxies?
- What other forms of consequence can be used to hold Iran accountable for actions taken by its proxy groups?

As always, carefully review all position papers before submitting them to ensure 100% of the work is your own. Also, please make sure that your papers represent the opinions of your country, not your own. Should any questions arise, you are welcome to email me at jenglano@mail.yu.edu for clarification. We have a daunting task ahead of us, but I sincerely believe that together we can have productive and meaningful discourse and work to better our region.

Best of luck,

Jacqueline Englanoff

Chair, Middle East Summit

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