Extracting CBW from security equations in the Middle East

Dr Jean Pascal Zanders
The Trench

WMD in the Middle East
Roundtable organised by the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) and Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies (NESA) of the US National Defense University (NDU)
Geneva, 17 – 18 April 2018
I know nothing, therefore ... 

- I will not lecture you
- I will not give you policy options
  (all of which you have heard before)

So ...  
- You will have to teach me

But ... 
- I am a critical student
- And I am difficult to convince
- So, I will ask you tough questions, which you must answer
CBW in the Middle East

- Write down in 2-3 lines how you view the problems with CBW in the Middle East?
- Do you assess the security challenges posed CW and BW as equivalent?
  - Why?
- List 5 steps you think are necessary to address the threats CBW pose to security in the Middle East?
- Are the BTWC and the CWC part of the solution?
  - Why?
Cleavages in the Middle East

• In your mind, which cleavages drive insecurity in the Middle East?
• Which cleavages are key in the debates on regional nuclear disarmament?
• Why?
• Which cleavages are key in the debates on regional chemical disarmament?
• Why?
• Which cleavages are key in the debates on regional biological disarmament?
• Why?
Chemical warfare in Syria

• Why is it possible that chemical warfare in the Syrian civil war has been able to continue for over 5 years now?
• Who do you hold primarily responsible for the CW attacks?
• Who do you consider accessories to the attacks?
• Which country or organisation should lead in terminating chemical warfare?
• What options exist for regional mediation?
• Are there issues you view as more important than halting chemical warfare? Which ones? Why?
Chemical warfare since World War 2

- List the incidents of major chemical warfare since 1945
- For each incident, list the perpetrator of chemical attacks
- For each incident, list the victims of the chemical attacks
- Identify the commonalities among perpetrators and victims
- How do your conclusions correlate with regional cleavages?
Your concluding thoughts ...

- Where would you recommend starting to discuss CBW disarmament for the Middle East?
- Who should take the lead?
- What roles do you see for:
  - Governments outside the region?
  - International organisations?
  - Regional organisations?
  - Non-governmental actors (professionals, scientists, civil society, ...)
- Is there merit in sub-regional discussions?
- How do you see regional actors taking ownership of the disarmament process?
Recalling where science, industry and military art converged
Challenging entrenched positions

www.the-trench.org

E-mail

jpzanders@the-trench.org