

# Global Agenda Council on Nuclear, Biological & Chemical Weapons 2012-2014



## Understanding/Context

The close of 2013 welcomed several positive developments in the drive to contain weapons of mass destruction. The swift and firm response by the United Nations to the reports of chemical weapon attacks in Syria, and the ensuing commitment of the Syrian government to destroy its chemical stockpiles, gave renewed momentum to international efforts. Likewise a breakthrough in the six-party talks on Iran's access to nuclear energy was received with both acclaim and hope, although with recrimination as well. The Oslo Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons represents a fresh approach to the issue, which may contribute to promoting non-proliferation and disarmament goals. However, recent developments in the nuclear capabilities of certain states raise fears that the Non-Proliferation Treaty is being undermined.

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## Shaping the Agenda

The Global Agenda Council on Nuclear, Biological & Chemical Weapons began two ambitious projects this term. First, to promote better understanding of the issues pertaining to weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their management, the Council created a public repository of information and educational materials on the subject. Members collected the materials on a platform lent by the Preparatory Commission for the Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization and asked other Global Agenda Councils to provide feedback and input. Second, the Council aims to encourage greater

collaboration among stakeholders. It developed a concept for a “Champions for Peace” award that would recognize industry players who have aided non-proliferation through their business practices. In light of events in Syria, the Council is developing a policy brief to inform top decision-makers of what must be done to ensure Syria is rid of chemical weapons.

In the second year of this term, the Council will try to bring together organizations that can support the creation of a massive open online course on WMD. It will also promote a workshop at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2014 on the Champions for Peace award, in partnership with major international organizations.

## Contact Information

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