POSITION PAPER

Swiss Confederation

Confédération suisse / Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft

UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL (UNSC)

AGENDA ITEM:

The Discussion on International Peace and Security in West Asia: Establishing a Sustainable Regional Security Architecture in the aftermath of the 2026 Iran Conflict with particular emphasis on Ceasefire Enforcement, Freedom of Navigation and the Prevention of Nuclear Proliferation.

I. HUMANITARIAN PRIMACY & PERMANENT NEUTRALITY

Switzerland comes to this Council with a clear goal: protect civilians, uphold humanitarian law, and keep diplomacy open. Following the 2026 conflict, we cannot let regional posturing overshadow the human cost. Lasting stability won't come from military strength or economic pressure—it only happens when all sides follow the Geneva Conventions **(ICRC, 1949)** and allow aid to move without delay. As a neutral nation, Switzerland is ready to host talks and help safeguard essential community infrastructure.

> *"Neutrality is not indifference. It is the essential pre-requisite for impartial humanitarian action, for trustworthy mediation and for the rule of law."*

II. CEASEFIRE ENFORCEMENT & MARITIME SAFETY

For any ceasefire to hold, we need neutral UN observers on the ground with a solid Security Council mandate. Aid like food and medicine must never be used as a political bargaining tool—Article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions requires all parties to let help reach people immediately. Out at sea, keeping the Strait of Hormuz open means sticking to international law under UNCLOS **(UNCLOS, 1982)**. Blockades and vessel seizures only escalate tension. Coastal states should set up a direct maritime contact hub to keep commercial ships safe.

III. NON-PROLIFERATION & OPERATIONAL DIRECTIVES

Nuclear non-proliferation is vital for regional peace and must stay grounded in the NPT **(NPT, 1968)**. Countries that follow the treaty have every right to peaceful nuclear energy, but technical monitoring belongs strictly with the IAEA **(IAEA, 2025)**, without political interference. Switzerland calls on the Council to adopt these concrete measures:

- **UN Verification Teams:** Send neutral UN teams to monitor the line of contact and track any breaches of humanitarian law.
- **Geneva Maritime Hub:** Open a technical coordination desk in Geneva for shipping lines and coastal states.
- **Protect Civilian Lifelines:** Explicitly ban military strikes on water plants, power grids, and hospitals.
- **Universal IAEA Inspections:** Urge regional states to sign the IAEA Additional Protocol for full verification.
- **Veto Restraint on Atrocities:** Call on Permanent Members to avoid using their veto during mass atrocity crises, per the ACT Group Code of Conduct.

IV. STRATEGIC PROPOSALS & PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS

- **Geneva Peace Platform:** Provide a permanent, neutral forum in Geneva for direct de-escalation talks.
- **Civilian Reconstruction Fund:** Set up an audited UN trust fund to rebuild damaged hospitals, water systems, and homes.
- **Regional Confidence Building:** Build trust with mandatory notice for naval drills and joint environmental work in the Persian Gulf.

> *"Peace is not simply the absence of war. Peace is the presence of justice, of international law and of respect for human dignity."*

OFFICIAL REFERENCES

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6. FDFA. (2024). *Switzerland's Foreign Policy Strategy 2024–2027*. Bern.