



LESSON PLAN: INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON IRAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM

Student Handout One: Background Dossier

Directions:

You are representing the interests of one of six nations called together by the United Nations Security Council to discuss and develop a policy to address concerns surrounding Iran's nuclear program. Your goal is to develop a presentation that will convince the other countries that you have the best policy. After all countries have presented their policy options, a vote will be taken recommending which policy will be sent to the U.N. Security Council.

1. Below is a dossier (report) regarding Iran's nuclear program. In this report you will find background facts surrounding the history and recent developments in negotiations between the international community and Iran. Review these and discuss with your group the current state of the situation and the positions held by Iran and members of the international community.
2. Next, review "Policy Positions of Attending Countries." This document describes the different policy positions of each country attending the forum. Discuss with your group the similarities and differences between your country's position and the positions of the other countries. Also on the same handout review the "Potential Policy Options." These are drafts of policies that several participating countries have informally discussed. Your group is free to adopt or modify any one of these or develop one of your own.
3. Once you have reviewed the different countries' positions and the policy option drafts, use the Policy-making Chart to write your nation's policy. You may also conduct further research to help develop your policy. Though diplomacy is all about flexibility, try to support your country's position when developing your policy. Be prepared to present your policy proposal during the forum.
4. As you develop your policy you might want to discuss your thoughts with another country to gain more support for your policy. Keeping in mind each country is free to make its own decisions, you must follow the "diplomatic protocol" for speaking with another country found below:

Diplomatic Protocol for Addressing Other Countries

- Ask permission from the other country to talk before sending over a representative. You may only see one country at a time.
- Your meeting time with that other country is limited to 5 minutes.
- In presenting your position, try to show them how your interests are related to their interests and that both countries interests are served by working together. Present your proposal in writing, read it, and then leave a copy for their private discussions.

- Depart from the country and await its decision. The country might send a representative to you to ask for clarification or to deliver its decision. Remember countries are not obligated to agree with other countries' proposals or even respond.
- **BACKGROUND DOSSIER:** After several years of on-again off-again negotiations with the United States and Europe, Iran has broken the seals on one of its nuclear facilities and resumed research on producing nuclear fuel. It is believed that this nuclear facility is for enriching uranium, potentially giving the Iranians the capability to produce a nuclear weapon. It is unclear at this point as to whether that is Iran's purpose, but its past uncooperative behavior and earlier comments by President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad indicate that Iran might be positioning itself to develop nuclear weapons. Iran is a participant in the Nonproliferation Treaty which seeks to control the spread and use of nuclear technology for the manufacture of nuclear weapons. If Iran is developing nuclear weapons, it would be in violation of this treaty. Six countries including Iran are meeting to discuss the issue and develop a policy to be recommended to the U.N. Security Council.

Basic Facts:

- Iran has been developing a nuclear program from the time of the Shah, the previous leader of Iran who was ousted from power in 1979.
- For years Iran has been suspected of being out of compliance with the U.N. nuclear regulatory agency, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).
- IAEA inspectors have been in Iran monitoring the situation since 2002.
- Several times in the past five years, Iran has stopped and started its nuclear program in sites suspected of producing nuclear weapons materials.
- The government of Iran contends it has a right to develop nuclear power for its economy and that its facilities are for that purpose.
- Intelligence sources report Iran is estimated to be seven to 10 years away from developing a nuclear weapon.
- Iran denies it supports terrorist organizations but acknowledges it has relations with numerous political groups in the Middle East.
- Earlier statements by Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad called the holocaust -- the mass murder of Jews and others during World War II -- a myth and that Israel should be wiped off the map.
- Israel conducted air strikes against Iraq in the early 1980s when it discovered a facility suspected of developing nuclear weapons.
- Israel is also suspected of possessing nuclear weapons technology if not the weapons themselves.
- Military strikes against Iran's nuclear facilities would be tactically difficult because they are spread throughout the country and located near civilian populations.
- Iran is the world's fourth producer of oil.