

Coming to Terms with Missile Capabilities

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Missiles Capabilities Panel

Amman Coordination Meeting

May 28th, 2024

Background

The Missiles Capabilities Panel is an initiative developed by the Arab Institute for Security Studies. The panel is organizing an international meeting to be held in Amman on May 28th, 2024 with the kind support of the Norwegian Embassy in Amman.

The traditional emphasis

The meeting takes place amidst growing tensions in the Middle East. Historically and traditionally, there were limited success in missile banning initiatives (HCOC, MCTR ... etc). These were widely viewed as lacking regional balance and as non-neutral arrangements which focused on ballistic missile capabilities while the Middle East witnesses the proliferation of various missile categories including ballistic missiles, guided missiles, missile defense systems and other types of delivery vehicles.

Missile defense systems vs. Missile cooperative arrangements

Regionally and globally, dealing with the threat of missiles totally relied on anti-missile defense systems with less emphasis on diplomatic efforts. While anti-missile defense systems may provide limited assurances, excessive reliance on such systems would result in a dangerous pattern of missile proliferation; The inability of anti-missile defense systems to confront all types of hostile missiles casted serious doubts on the confidence towards such systems. This underscores the importance of developing a creative diplomatic approach to dealing with the growing risk of missiles. Indeed, the Middle East remains in a desperate need to develop internally tailored mechanisms to manage the threat of missiles, a mechanism that takes into consideration fears and joint interests of the region.

“What” and “What not” to expect at the meeting

The Missile Capabilities Panel will not engage in discussions related to the banning or prohibition of missiles. The Amman meeting does not aim to create modalities which outlaw missile development or possession; the meeting is a **brainstorming and information-sharing** session for the purpose of building confidence and reducing tensions in a volatile region. The Missile Capabilities Panel **opens the door for initiating mutually beneficial dialogue with the aim of developing technical measures to building confidence and introducing win-win scenarios.**