



MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS OF FINLAND

H.E. Ambassador Jeremy Issacharoff

Deputy Director General for Strategic Affairs

Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Jerusalem

Helsinki, 3 August 2013

Excellency,

Thank you very much for the many opportunities we have had during the last six months to discuss the prospects for the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction as well as the suggested preparatory consultations.

Let me emphasize at the outset that the conveners and the facilitator remain firmly committed to their important responsibilities and would like to see a speedy launch of the process thus enabling the regional partners to start working with the substance without delay.

I have made preliminary arrangements to invite all relevant partners to Geneva on September 2-3, 2013 for preparatory consultations. For the purpose of preparing the invitations for the Geneva consultations, I will meet with the conveners on August 16 in Vienna, Austria. I would like to welcome regional representatives to participate in discussions on the relevant details, and would kindly invite 1-2 persons representing Israel to join me in Vienna and have the opportunity to meet the conveners along with other regional stakeholders. My office will be in touch regarding the logistics.

Regarding the way forward our intentions are as follows.

The purpose and agenda of the Geneva consultations is to build agreement on the Helsinki Conference, its agenda and modalities of organization, including the timing, structure, and working methods of the Conference as well as its rules of procedure. Agreements in the consultations will be reached through consensus.

Once an agreement among the regional parties about the arrangements for the Conference has been reached in these consultations, the conveners will be able to convene the Helsinki Conference without delay, with the aim of holding it in 2013.



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The Government of Finland has announced that it can organize the Conference at a short notice and has made preliminary arrangements for it to be held in December this year.

The United Nations, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and United States as conveners support the approach I have outlined above. It is my sincere hope that it would meet with the approval of Israel.

The conveners and I share the view that launching this important process now would be in the interest of all and an important signal both within the region as well as for the entire international community.

As always, I remain ready to continue discussions on the way ahead and on other relevant matters at your earliest convenience.

I avail myself of this opportunity to express my highest consideration for the support and cooperation my team and I have always enjoyed by Your Excellency and Israel.

Sincerely,

  
Jaakko Laajava  
Under-Secretary of State  
Facilitator