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**Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review  
Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the  
Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

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**Working paper concerning implementation of the 1995 resolution on  
the Middle East, submitted by the United Arab Emirates, on behalf  
of the States members of the League of Arab States, to the First  
Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the  
Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons****I. Efforts exerted with a view to implementing the 1995  
resolution on the Middle East**

1. The resolution on the Middle East that was adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, concerning the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction, represents the principle and central pillar of the Treaty indefinite extension package.

2. In the light of the international undertaking to implement that resolution, Arab States that had not, prior to 1995, acceded to the Treaty, became Parties thereto. Israel, however, did not become a Party, leaving it as the only State in the region that has not acceded, and refuses to place its nuclear facilities under the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) comprehensive safeguards system. That situation, as we have repeatedly warned, threatens the security of the Arab States and regional and international peace, and is likely to lead to a regional armament race.

3. Fifteen years after the vain demand that the 1995 resolution on the Middle East should be implemented, the 2010 Review Conference adopted a Final Document that included a full action plan, one of four such plans that were adopted by the Conference, which set forth practical steps for implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, which represents an important opportunity to underpin regional security and reflects the wish of the international community to maintain the credibility of the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

4. The Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference emphasized the importance of a process leading to full implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, which remains valid until its goals and objectives are achieved. To that end, the Conference endorsed practical steps that include commissioning the



Secretary-General of the United Nations and the co-sponsors of the 1995 resolution, namely, the United States of America, the United Kingdom and the Russian Federation, in consultation with the States of the region, to convene a conference in 2012, to be attended by all States of the Middle East, on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. The Final Document provided that the 2012 Conference shall take as its terms of reference the 1995 resolution.

5. Notwithstanding that important development, one whole year passed before the first steps were taken towards the implementation of the Final Document action plan for the Middle East. Those steps included the appointment of a facilitator for the work of the Conference and the designation of the host Government: on 14 October 2011, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in consultation with the co-sponsors of the 1995 resolution and the States of the region, announced that Finland had been selected as the host Government, with the deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Finland to serve as the facilitator.

6. The Arab States expressed their satisfaction with the choice of Finland as host Government and immediately became engaged in continuous consultations with the facilitator, the deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Finland. In the course of those consultations, which were held during the facilitator's visits to numerous Arab capitals, and through Arab groups in New York and Vienna and the League of Arab States, it was possible to convey a number of constructive ideas and proposals regarding preparations for the 2012 Conference.

7. Most of the Arab States also took part in the IAEA Forum on Experience of Possible Relevance to the Creation of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in the Middle East that was held in Vienna on 20 and 21 November 2011. The convening of that Forum had been called for in an IAEA General Conference Decision (GC 44/DEC/12) that was adopted at the 44th session in 2000. Forum discussions drew on the knowledge of other nuclear-weapon-free zones, from whose experience it might be possible to benefit and from whom assistance might be sought in establishing a similar zone in the Middle East. Elements discussed included the political situation that had prevailed before and during negotiations; the negotiations themselves; relevant parts of the Treaty, its scope and mechanisms; verification procedures; and the relevant undertakings of the nuclear Powers.

## **II. The position of the States members of the League of Arab States**

8. Once again, the Arab States express their satisfaction with the Final Document that was unanimously adopted by the 2010 Review Conference and, in particular, the action plan for implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, and affirm the need for full implementation of the components of that plan, in order to fulfil what was agreed at the 1995 Conference with regard to the Middle East and the establishment there of a zone free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction.

9. The Arab States also welcome the preliminary steps that have been taken, albeit somewhat late, to convene the 2012 Conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction

which was called for in the action plan for the Middle East that was contained in the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference. It must be recalled that the action plan provided that the Conference should be attended by all States of the Middle East, given that it is the participating regional States that will determine the follow-up procedures that will be undertaken by the facilitator. The Arab States trust that forthcoming steps will be taken with the speed necessary to ensure that the best possible arrangements are made for the Conference.

10. The Arab States note the need for the facilitator to undertake the principle duties with which he has been entrusted in accordance with the action plan for the Middle East that was contained in the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference, the focus of which is to implement the 1995 resolution on the Middle East by conducting consultations in that regard with the States of the region and preparing an agenda for the Conference, using the terms of reference that were specified in the 2010 Document. The facilitator is also to assist in implementing future follow-on steps, and submit his reports to the 2015 Review Conference and its Preparatory Committee meetings.

11. The Arab States request IAEA, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the other relevant international organizations to prepare reference documents for the 2012 Conference in good time and in the manner specified in the action plan for the Middle East.

12. The Arab States underline the need for the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the three co-sponsors of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East to undertake their responsibilities with regard to the implementation of the resolution, given that it represents a central factor in achieving security for all the peoples of the region, as well as being of the utmost importance for the continuance and credibility of the Treaty and the non-proliferation regime.

13. The Arab States are cognizant of the efforts that have been exerted and the initiatives that have been taken by various Parties at the official and unofficial levels in preparation for the 2012 Conference, including numerous activities in support of preparations that have been undertaken with the participation of all the relevant regional parties. The Arab States stress that such efforts must remain supportive of the endeavours of the facilitator, in the context of preparations for the Conference.

14. The Arab States underline the need to make use of the experience of other zones that are free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction in establishing such a zone in the Middle East, as indicated by the IAEA Forum that was held in November 2011. Tools must continue to be sought for that purpose that are appropriate to the particularities of the region and must be supplemented as appropriate to current situations and challenges.

15. States Parties are urged to support the voluntary fund for the convening of the 2012 Conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction.

16. The Arab States emphasize the need for Israel to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and place all its nuclear facilities under the IAEA comprehensive safeguards system. They urge the Security Council and the international community to exercise their authority in order to ensure that Israel complies forthwith with the United Nations and IAEA resolutions relevant to the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons.

17. On the basis of the foregoing, the Arab States affirm that there is pressing need to apply the 1995 resolution on the Middle East and for the three co-sponsors of that resolution and those sponsoring the steps for its implementation to hold the 2012 Conference in order to affirm the importance of making the Middle East a zone free of nuclear weapons, in accordance with the action plan that was contained in the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference. They further underline the important roles and responsibilities with which the Secretary-General of the United Nations was entrusted in that regard and the need for the United Nations to continue to follow up implementation of what was agreed.

18. The Arab States assert that it would not be difficult to establish a zone free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, as provided for in the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, if the States in the region had the political will and the international community were to play an effective role on the basis of the United Nations resolutions relating thereto. The Arab States request all States Members of the United Nations to refrain from taking any measures that would prevent the realization of this goal.

19. The Arab States stress that any resolutions that are adopted by the 2012 Conference should propose genuine steps, specific undertakings and a schedule for talks on establishing a zone free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. They also affirm that the success of the 2012 Conference represents a crossroads, insofar as, if no measurable progress is made, States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in the region will be compelled to reconsider their positions and evaluate the policies that they have been pursuing in recent years.

20. Responsibility for the efforts required to establish a zone free of nuclear weapons in the Middle East lies principally with the States of the region that have not acceded to the Treaty, which was also the case when other nuclear-weapon-free zones were established. It is therefore incumbent upon Israel to take the initiative and take the necessary steps towards establishing that zone, as was the case with previous situations. It must accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and place its nuclear facilities under the IAEA comprehensive safeguards system. Otherwise, the region will be propelled towards an armament race.

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