



January 20th, 2015

Excellency,

In reference to the informal "orientation paper" that was presented to H.E. Mr. Nabil Elaraby, Secretary General of the League of Arab States, on November 30th, 2014, and to your letter dated January 8th, 2015, addressed to His Excellency, regarding convening a "drafting session" in Geneva, January 25-26, 2015, I would like to inform you that both correspondences have been transmitted to the Arab Senior Officials Committee.

I would like to inform you that the Committee has reviewed the "orientation paper" presented to the Secretary General on November 30th, 2014. In this respect, the Committee would like to reaffirm the Arab group position as reflected in the working paper presented at the second Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference "NPT/ CONF.2015/PC.II/WP.34" (attached), which was sent to you earlier. This working paper was based on the resolution on the Middle East adopted by 1995 Review and Extension Conference and the 2010 Middle East action plan and mandate. Therefore, the Committee is of the view that the informal orientation paper does not meet the requirements for the convening of the 2012 postponed conference on the establishment of a Middle East Zone free of Nuclear Weapons and all other Weapons of Mass Destruction.

Due to the limited time between the proposed meeting in Geneva and the senior Arab Official meeting, the latter will not be able to participate at the proposed Geneva meeting and requests that dates for any future meetings be consulted with the Committee before being set .

The Committee is confident that your Excellency and the conveners are fully aware of all its constructive efforts in order to achieve the aim of convening the 2012 postponed conference to ensure its success and expresses its readiness to continue such cooperation. The Committee reiterates the fundamental terms of reference required to convene the postponed 2012 Conference that includes holding it under the auspices of the United Nations, and as mandated in the 2010 Review Conference action plan.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely,

Mohamed Ahmed Ismail
Chairman of Senior Official Committee

H.E. Mr. Jaakko Laajava
Under-Secretary of State
Facilitator of the Conference on the
Establishment of ME-NW and WMDFZ