



MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS OF FINLAND

His Excellency

Mr. Mohamed Ahmed Ismail

Chairman of Senior Officials Committee

League of Arab States

Helsinki, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Excellency,

I am most grateful for your letter of February 24 and for the hard work and engagement of the Senior Officials Committee. I thank you for your continued support to our joint endeavor.

You raise a number of important issues in your letter. Some of them can at least preliminarily be addressed in my letter and some merit a joint assessment in the Geneva format.

I believe that the five meetings so far among regional states in Switzerland have brought us closer to regional parties being ready to attend the Helsinki Conference.

Together with the four co-conveners, the United Nations Secretary General, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States, we are planning to have a meeting with the regional parties in Geneva before or after the NPT Review Conference. I welcome your expressed readiness to participate in a meeting in Geneva, and it is my sincere hope that you would agree to send your representatives to it.

As to the date, we remain flexible, but are proposing April 19-20, 2015, for your consideration. If you prefer a date after the NPT Review Conference, we would very much welcome your suggestions.

In the previous meetings in this format, we had a valuable exchange of views on all the necessary elements pertinent to the Helsinki Conference. Our purpose for the next meeting is not to repeat this exchange, but instead to prepare for the Helsinki Conference by working to achieve consensus on an agenda and modalities for the Conference.

I fully expect Israel to participate again in this meeting, assuming the date is possible for them. I will, as on previous occasions, invite the Islamic Republic of Iran and follow up with the Government in the hope that they will participate.

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

Sincerely,

Jaakko Laajava,

Under-Secretary of State

Facilitator