

**INFORMAL ORIENTATION PAPER
BY THE OFFICE OF THE
FACILITATOR**

Draft 28 November 2014

THE HELSINKI CONFERENCE

**ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MIDDLE EAST ZONE FREE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS
AND ALL OTHER WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION AND THEIR DELIVERY SYSTEMS**

DRAFT AGENDA

DRAFT CONCLUDING DOCUMENT

DRAFT RULES OF PROCEDURE

OTHER MODALITIES

DRAFT PROGRAMME

DRAFT AGENDA

1. Opening of the Conference
2. Organization of the Conference
 - a. Adoption of the agenda
 - b. Adoption of the rules of procedure
3. Background documents provided by international organizations
4. The establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, and their delivery systems:
 - a. Properties of an effectively verifiable Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction, nuclear, chemical and biological, and their delivery systems
 - b. Confidence- and security-building measures and cooperation aimed at contributing to a favorable environment for the establishment of such a zone
5. Follow-on steps
6. Conclusions and Recommendations
7. Closure of the Conference

DRAFT CONCLUDING DOCUMENT

The Helsinki Conference

on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems

The participants of the Helsinki Conference¹, held on...,

1. Mindful of the Resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and of the Action Plan contained in the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,
2. Affirming that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction constitutes a threat to international peace and security,
3. Considering that the establishment of zones free of WMD would greatly enhance international peace and security and contribute to arms control and non-proliferation,
4. Sharing the goal of a Middle East zone free of nuclear and all other weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, within comprehensive and durable regional peace,
5. Willing to engage in regional dialogue and talks about the properties of such an effectively verifiable zone as well as about confidence- and security-building measures and cooperation aimed at contributing to a favorable environment for its establishment,
6. Recognizing that the work towards the establishment of a zone free of all WMD and their means of delivery must be based on arrangements freely arrived at by the participating States,
7. Reaffirming that their ultimate vision is to achieve a just, comprehensive and durable peace, security and stability in the Middle East conducive to sustained regional dialogue, exchanges and a mutually beneficial cooperation,
8. Desiring to make progress towards these aims through the launch of the Helsinki Conference,
9. Appreciating the productive exchange of views held in Helsinki and recognizing the need for follow-on steps to continue the work now initiated,

¹ (List of participants)

DRAFT RULES OF PROCEDURE

DELEGATIONS

Each delegation shall decide on its representation at the Conference and communicate it to the Conference secretariat.

CHAIRMANSHIP

The chairmanship shall be assumed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland or by his designated representative.

DECISION-MAKING

The Conference respects the principle of equality of participants and all decisions of the Conference shall be made by the participants by consensus, which shall be understood to mean the absence of any objection expressed by a representative and submitted by him or her as constituting an obstacle to the taking of the decision in question.

PROPOSALS

Any participant or observer may make proposals on any point of the agenda for the consideration of the Conference and has the right of having them circulated by the Conference secretariat to the Conference.

FORMAL RESERVATIONS AND INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENTS

Participants may ask for their formal reservations or interpretative statements concerning given decisions to be duly registered by the Conference secretariat and circulated to the Conference. Such statements must be submitted in writing to the Conference secretariat.

POINT OF ORDER

During the discussion on any matter, a representative may raise a point of order and the chairperson shall give him or her the floor immediately. A representative raising a point of order may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

LANGUAGES AND INTERPRETATION

The working languages of the Conference are Arabic, English and French. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in these languages. Statements may be made in a language other than the working languages. In this case, the respective delegation shall provide for interpretation into one of the working languages. Any documents submitted to the Conference should be in English. Documentation during the Conference will be provided in English only.

[Have agreed to:

- establish a Coordinating Committee to foster the political dialogue in the region and guide the work of the Governmental expert groups, ensuring their parallel and balanced functioning
- set up two Expert Groups on
 - a) properties of the zone, including its scope of prohibition and coverage; parameters, definitions, geographic extent, verification and compliance, as well as other necessary provisions
 - b) confidence- and security-building measures and cooperation in the Middle East
- consider further steps to enhance security and cooperation in the region of the Middle East, including the convening of possible further Expert Groups and the possibility of a new Conference
- invite the participants and observers of the Helsinki Conference to participate in all follow-on activities outlined above in the same capacity as their participation in the Conference
- confirm that all decisions within the follow-on activities shall be made by the participants by consensus
- empower the Coordinating Committee to invite contributions, as appropriate, from relevant international organizations and civil society to various follow-on activities
- request the Facilitator to undertake the necessary preparations for the convening of the above meetings and activities
- request the provision of auspices, support, contribution and assistance by the conveners of the Helsinki Conference, i.e. the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America
- (placeholder for a possible decision regarding the practical aspects of the follow-on activities)]

OTHER MODALITIES

CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT

The Conference secretariat will be provided by the host Government.

INVITATIONS

Invitations will be sent to the Foreign Ministers by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the host Government on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. The Conference will be held under their auspices.

PARTICIPANTS

Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

OBSERVERS

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, the United States, China, France, the League of Arab States and Palestine.

HOST GOVERNMENT

The Government of the Republic of Finland

DOCUMENTATION

Background documentation will be provided by IAEA, OPCW, BWC-ISU and CTBTO who will be invited to introduce them to the conference.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE CONFERENCE

Date

[Placeholder]

Place

Finlandia Hall, Helsinki, Finland

LIST OF SPEAKERS

The chairperson shall keep a list of speakers and may declare the list closed with the consent of the meeting. The chairperson shall, however, accord the right of reply to any representative if a speech after the chairperson has declared the list closed makes this desirable.

OTHER ISSUES

Sessions of the Conference will be closed to the public.

No official records of the proceedings will be published, unless otherwise decided by the Conference.

Delegations are free to circulate their statements and documents if they so wish.

ADOPTION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

These rules of procedure shall be agreed upon by the participants. Once adopted, they can be altered by a decision of the Conference in accordance with the rules of procedure.

DRAFT PROGRAMME

DAY 1

10:00 – 13:00 Session 1

Opening of the Conference

Opening remarks by the Government of Finland

Statement by the Secretary-General of the United Nations

Statements by the Governments of the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America

Organization of the Conference

Adoption of the agenda

Adoption of the rules of procedure

Background documents provided by international organizations

Introductions by the representatives of IAEA, OPCW, BWC-ISU, and the Preparatory Commission for the CTBTO

The establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, and their delivery systems:

- a. **Properties of an effectively verifiable Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction, nuclear, chemical and biological, and their delivery systems**
- b. **Confidence- and security-building measures and cooperation aimed at contributing to a favorable environment for the establishment of such a zone**

13:00 – 15:00 Lunch

15:00 – 18:00 Session 2

The establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems:

- a. **Properties of an effectively verifiable Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction, nuclear, chemical and biological, and their delivery systems**
- b. **Confidence- and security-building measures and cooperation aimed at contributing to a favorable environment for the establishment of such a zone**
(continued)

19:30 – 22:00 Dinner hosted by the Government of Finland

Day 2

10:00 – 13:00 Session 3

The establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems:

- a. **Properties of an effectively verifiable Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction, nuclear, chemical and biological, and their delivery systems**
- b. **Confidence- and security-building measures and cooperation aimed at contributing to a favorable environment for the establishment of such a zone**
(continued)

Follow-on steps

Conclusions and Recommendations

Closure of the Conference

13:00 Lunch