

begin text: STATEMENT ON ARMS CONTROL AND REGIONAL SECURITY

PREAMBLE

The regional participants in the Arms Control and Regional Security working group,

Reaffirming their respect for the Charter of the United Nations,

Bearing in mind the urgent necessity of achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement in the Middle East based on United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and conscious of the historic breakthroughs towards such a settlement since the 1991 Madrid Middle East Peace Conference, particularly the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles and the subsequent Agreement on the Gaza and Jericho Area, and the Common Agenda between Jordan and Israel and the subsequent Jordan-Israel Washington Declaration,

Agreeing that all regional parties should pursue the common purpose of achieving full and lasting relations of peace, openness, mutual confidence, security, stability and cooperation throughout the region,

Recognizing that the multilateral working groups, including the Arms Control and Regional Security working group, should continue to complement the bilateral negotiations and help improve the climate for resolving the core issues at the heart of the Middle East peace process, and that the peace process also created the opportunity to cooperate in addressing additional issues of region-wide concern,

Embarking in this context on a process through the Arms Control and Regional Security working group to establish arms control and regional security arrangements aimed at safeguarding the region from the dangers and ominous consequences of future wars and the horrors of mass destruction, and enabling all possible resources to be devoted to the welfare of the peoples of the region, including such areas as economic and social development,

Recognizing the importance of preventing the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons and of preventing the excessive accumulation of conventional arms in enhancing international and regional peace and security,

Conscious that the arms control and regional security process seeks to achieve a stable balance among military capabilities in the region that takes into account quantitative and qualitative factors, and also recognizes the significance of structural factors, and that provides for equal security for all,

Welcoming the special role of the United States and Russia as active co-sponsors of the Middle East peace process and calling on them and other extra-regional states to provide continuing support for the objectives and arrangements of the arms control and regional security process,

Recognizing that the full realization of the objectives contained in this Statement would be facilitated by the involvement in the arms control and regional security process of all regional parties, and calling on all such parties to support the principles contained in this Statement and, in this connection, to join the arms control and regional security process at an early date,

Have adopted the following:

I. FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES GOVERNING SECURITY RELATIONS AMONG REGIONAL PARTICIPANTS IN THE ARMS CONTROL AND REGIONAL SECURITY WORKING GROUP

In their pursuit of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, the regional participants will be governed in their security policies by the following fundamental principles, among others:

- The participants reaffirm their commitment to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.
- Participants must refrain from the threat or use of force and from acts of terrorism and subversion.
- Security requires that participants fulfill in good faith obligations under international law.
- Security must be based on respect for and acknowledgement of sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence, non-interference in internal affairs, and reconciliation and cooperation among participants.
- Arms control and regional security arrangements should be aimed at achieving equal security for all at the lowest possible level of armaments and military forces.
- Military means, while needed to fulfill the inherent right of self-defense, and to discourage aggression, cannot by themselves provide security.

-- Enduring security requires the peaceful resolution of conflicts in the region and the promotion of good neighborly relations and common interests.

II. GUIDELINES FOR THE MIDDLE EAST ARMS CONTROL AND REGIONAL SECURITY PROCESS

The regional participants recognize the following as guidelines for the arms control and regional security process:

-- The arms control and regional security process, as an integral part of the Middle East peace process, should create a favorable climate for progress in the bilateral negotiations and complement them by developing tangible measures in parallel with progress in the bilateral talks.

-- The arms control and regional security process should strive to enhance security and general stability on a region-wide basis, even beyond the scope of the Arab-Israeli conflict, by pursuing regional security and arms control measures that reduce tension or the risk of war.

-- The scope of the process must be comprehensive, covering a broad range of regional security, confidence and security building and arms control measures that address all threats to security and all categories of arms and weapons systems.

-- The arms control and regional security process should not at any stage diminish the security of any individual state or give a state a military advantage over any other.

-- The basic framework of the process is to pursue a determined, step-by-step approach which sets ambitious goals and proceeds toward them in a realistic way.

-- The basis for decision-making on each issue in the arms control and regional security process should be consensus by the regional participants directly concerned.

-- Each regional arrangement adopted in the arms control and regional security process should be the result of direct regional negotiations and should be implemented by all those regional parties relevant to the arrangement.

-- Strict compliance with arms control and disarmament measures adopted within the framework of the arms control and regional security process is essential to the integrity of that process and for building confidence among the regional participants.

-- All arms control and disarmament measures adopted by regional participants within the framework of the arms control and regional security process will be effectively verifiable by the regional parties themselves and should include, where appropriate, mutual on-site inspection and other rigorous monitoring techniques and mechanisms, and such verification could be complementary with verification measures in international arrangements.

III. STATEMENTS OF INTENT ON OBJECTIVES FOR THE ARMS CONTROL AND REGIONAL SECURITY PROCESS

In the context of achieving a just, secure, comprehensive and lasting peace and reconciliation, the regional participants agree to pursue, inter alia, the following arms control and regional security objectives:

-- preventing conflict from occurring through misunderstanding or miscalculation by adopting confidence and security building measures that increase transparency and openness and reduce the risk of surprise attack and by developing regional institutional arrangements that enhance security and the process of arms control;

-- limiting military spending in the region so that additional resources can be made available to other areas such as economic and social development;

-- reducing stockpiles of conventional arms and preventing a conventional arms race in the region as part of an effort to provide enhanced security at lower levels of armaments and militarization, to reduce the threat of large-scale destruction posed by such weapons, and to move towards force structures that do not exceed legitimate defense requirements;

-- promoting cooperation among regional participants in the peaceful uses of outer space, including the pursuit of appropriate means of sharing the benefits from satellite systems, of ensuring that outer space and other environments will not be used for acts of aggression by regional participants, and of enhancing the security of regional participants; and

[-- establishing the Middle East as a mutually verifiable zone free of nuclear, chemical, biological weapons and ballistic missiles in view of their high destructive capacity and their potential to promote instability in the region.]

[-- establishing the Middle East as a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons and their delivery systems -- since such weapons, with their high destructive capacity and their potential to promote instability in the region, pose a grave threat to security -- through a combination of regional arrangements, such as weapons-free zones, and international arrangements, such as the BWC, the NPT, and the CWC.]

[-- establishing a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their delivery systems, since such weapons, with their high destructive capacity and their potential to exacerbate the arms race in the region, pose the greatest threat to its security.

-- that all parties of the region will adhere to the NPT in the near future.]

Regional participants will be guided in their conduct by the principles embodied in this Statement and will refrain from actions or activities that are inconsistent with its guidelines or principles and that preclude the attainment of its objectives.

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