

Thank you Madame President for giving me the floor.

I would like to take this opportunity to express the State of Kuwait's gratitude to all the participating Members to the Conference during the past session of the conference for reaching a consensus regarding adopting the Conference's rules of procedures.

Together, this milestone as well as the consensual spirit demonstrated by the Members to the Conference led to and resulted in adopting the establishment of a working committee. The established working committee is a melting pot of ideas exchanged between the members of the conference that assisted in expanding our perspectives on how to move forward and achieving our end goal which is a binding treaty to create a MEFZNW

Allow me Madam President to present our **Summary of Work of the Working Committee of The Second Session Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction** which was presented to and agreed upon by consensus by the members to the conference.

I. Introduction

1. At its second session, the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction adopted a decision (A/CONF.236/2021/DEC.3) to establish, on an informal basis, a working committee to continue deliberation on issues related to the mandate of the Conference, as contained in General Assembly decision 73/546 of 22 December 2018, on the basis of the outcomes of each annual session of the Conference. Pursuant to that decision, the working committee held three meetings in the intersessional period between the second and third sessions of the Conference.

II. Conduct of the working committee

2. The working committee held three meetings, under the Presidency of the second session of the Conference (Kuwait).

3. The first meeting, convened on 24 March 2022, considered the organizational aspects of the working committee, and agreed to hold two additional working committee meetings before the third session of the Conference in November 2022.

4. The second meeting of the working committee held from 7 to 9 June 2022 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, considered an informal paper

prepared by the President, which contained issues pending further deliberation from the thematic debate of the second session of the Conference. At this meeting, participants agreed to carry out further discussions in an informal and in-depth manner on two key topics, namely, legal aspects of a future Middle East zone treaty and verification in relation to nuclear weapons at a third meeting with inputs from relevant experts. The meeting noted an initial list of experts proposed by the Secretariat and agreed to supplement the list by nominations from Members of the Conference.

5. The working committee held its third meeting from 6 to 8 September 2022 at the Tarrytown House Estate, a conference facility under contract with the United Nations, in New York.

Madam President, I would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the secretariat for assisting and facilitating and the Members to the Conference for presenting and adopting the list of experts which participated in the Third meeting of the working committee.

6. The following experts, some of whom were nominated by the Members to the Conference, gave presentations in their personal capacity and don't necessary represent the position of the Members to the Conference. It should be highlighted that the views expressed in the presentations neither were finalized and agreed upon nor represented the affiliated institutes of the presenters regarding the following topics:

Discussion Topic 1: Legal aspects of the future Middle East zone treaty

- Professor Karim Haggag (American University of Cairo)
- Ms. Tomisha Bino (UNIDIR)
- Ms. Mona Ali Khalil (Mona Ali Khalil MAK Law)
- Ms. Martha Mariana Mendoza Basulto (OPANAL)
- Mr. Ionut Suseanu (IAEA)
- Mr. Noah Mayhew (VCDNP)

Discussion Topic 2: Verification in relation to nuclear weapons

- Mr. John Carlson (Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation)
- Mr. Enobot Agboraw (AFCONE)
- Mr. Mohammad Taghi Hosseini (Institute of Political and International Studies)
- Mr. Fábio Cordero Dias (ABACC)

7. Following the presentations by the above-mentioned invited experts, representatives of Members to the Conference engaged in interactive discussions with the experts on those key topics. Participants found that the informal deliberations, were useful.

8. The Members to the Conference agreed to further continue expert level discussions in future meetings of the working committee guided by the third session of the Conference.

The State of Kuwait once again would like to express its gratitude to all Members to the Conference and looks forward to conducting a constructive exchange of opinions on agreed upon topics during the upcoming working committee meetings chaired by the President of the Third Session of the Conference.

Thank you, Madame President