

Annex

Summary of the work of the working committee established at the second session of the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction

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 deliberations 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. At the first meeting, on 24 March 2022, the organizational aspects of the working committee were considered, and it was agreed to hold two additional working committee meetings before the third session of the Conference, in November 2022.

4. At the second meeting of the working committee, held from 7 to 9 June 2022 at Headquarters, an informal paper prepared by the President was considered, which contained issues for further deliberation pending from the thematic debate of the second session of the Conference. At that 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. An initial list of experts proposed by the Secretariat was noted, and it was agreed to supplement the list with nominations from Members to 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.

6. The experts listed below, some of whom were nominated by the Members to the Conference, gave presentations in their personal capacity that did not necessarily represent the positions of the Members to the Conference. It should be highlighted that the views expressed in the presentations neither were finalized nor 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”

- Karim Haggag (American University of Cairo)
- Tomisha Bino (United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research)
- Mona Ali Khalil (Mona Ali Khalil MAK Law)
- Martha Mariana Mendoza Basulto (Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean)

- Ionut Suseanu (International Atomic Energy Agency)
- Noah Mayhew (Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-proliferation)

Discussion topic 2, “Verification in relation to nuclear weapons”

- John Carlson (Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation)
- Enobot Agboraw (African Commission on Nuclear Energy)
- Mohammad Taghi Hosseini (Institute of Political and International Studies)
- Fábio Cordero Dias (Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials)

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 Conference at its third session.
