

**Closing Remarks by the President of the Second Session of the Conference on
the Establishment of a Middle Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other
Weapons of Mass Destruction**

3 December 2021, New York

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates

Please allow me to deliver some remarks before closing the Second Session of this Conference.

Since I was entrusted with the responsibilities of President on behalf of my country to undertake preparations for the second session of this historical Conference and during the Conference this week, I have approached my responsibilities with commitment and conviction. I firmly believe that achieving the goal of banning nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East will greatly benefit the peoples of every country in the region. It will contribute significantly to regional and global peace, security and economic development. The important role of the second session, as I see it, is to build on the political momentum of the first session and prepare a solid basis for the substantive deliberation and negotiation of a legally binding treaty of a Middle East zone, a concrete step forward to translate the vision and political commitment into meaningful actions in this important process.

With this conviction, I have conducted the Conference's work in an open, transparent and inclusive manner. For the Members to the Conference that have yet to join the process, I call on them again to participate as soon as possible for the sake of the huge potential benefits for peace, security, and social and economic progress for the region and indeed for all individual countries in the Middle East.

We are deeply aware that the journey to reach our objective is an arduous one, but with a strong political will and determination, we can take solid steps to move the process forward through collective dedication, wisdom and hard work. I am very pleased to say that is what we have demonstrated in the lead up to and especially during this session. We reached agreement on the conference's rules of procedure, we made a decision to create a mechanism to carry out intersessional work, and more importantly, we initiated formal deliberations in a structured manner on various key aspects of a Middle East zone treaty. These concrete steps

forward would not have been possible without the constructive contribution of all the participating Members to the Conference. With dedication and hard work, we have together taken solid steps in this process to translate our common vision into concrete action and progress. We pledge to continue work together to push our way forward, with the support of the rest of the international community, to fulfill the aspiration of the peoples in the Middle East for just and lasting peace, security and prosperity .

Before concluding the session, I would like to extend again, on behalf of all participating Members to the Conference, observer States and relevant international organizations participating in the Second Session of the Conference, and on my own behalf, sincere gratitude to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for all his effort made in convening this Conference.

Our heartfelt thanks also go to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, the Secretariat Team of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, led by Mr. Wang, for their tireless and dedicated efforts to support and facilitate our work throughout the session.

I also thank the members of my team – who have supported me throughout this process, particularly Mr. Tareq Albanai.

Special thanks go to all the interpreters, translators, record-keepers, conference officers and sound engineers, who have worked diligently behind the scenes in support of the Conference's work.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all participating Members to the Conference of this Second Session of the Conference, to each and every one of you for your spirit of support and cooperation, without which, we could not have achieved the success of this Session of the Conference. I would also thank the observer States and international organizations present at this session for their support and encouragement. I also thank the representatives of other relevant international organisations, UN organs and civil societies for their presence and support.

I now declare the Second Session of this Conference closed.