

United Nations



Nations Unies

Executive Office of the Secretary-General  
Cabinet du Secrétaire général

**#1 PRIORITY**

To: CDC (through ODSG),

Please find attached for your approval the draft report of the SG on the "Establishment of a nuclear weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East". The report is due in the General Assembly on 8 July 2014.

The report provides an update on the progress made towards convening a conference on this issue as well as a brief update on the Middle East Peace Process (prepared by DPA).

AK

Political Unit  
7 July 2014

**Received in ODSG**

*7 July 2014*

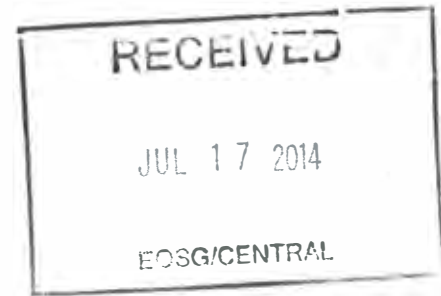
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Note to the Deputy Secretary-General

**REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO THE SIXTY- NINTH SESSION  
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON ESTABLISHMENT OF A NUCLEAR-  
WEAPON-FREE ZONE IN THE REGION OF THE MIDDLE EAST**

1. Please find attached for consideration and approval, sections I and II of the report of the Secretary-General, prepared pursuant to the request contained in General Assembly resolutions 68/27 "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East".
2. Section II of the report contains observations of the Secretary-General pertaining to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in that region and progress made towards the convening of a conference on this issue. Section II also contains input (paragraphs 3 and 4 ) received from the Department of Political Affairs on the Middle East Peace Process.
3. The deadline for submission of this report to the Department of General Assembly and Conference Management (DGACM), as indicated by DGACM slotting, is 8 July 2014.



Virginia Gamba

Officer-in-Charge

Office for Disarmament Affairs

30 June 2014

cc: Ms. Kane  
Mr. Feltman

Dis/04/007; Dis/04/007

Approved on behalf of the Secretary-General.

Chef de Cabinet

*[Handwritten signature]*  
28/07/14

United Nations

A/69/XX (Part I)



## General Assembly

Distr.: General  
XX XXX 2014  
English  
Original: Arabic/English/Spanish

Sixty-ninth session

Items X and X of the provisional agenda\*

**Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region  
of the Middle East**

**The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East**

### **Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East**

#### **Report of the Secretary-General**

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#### **I. Introduction**

1. By operative paragraph 10 of its resolution 68/27, on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to pursue consultations with the States of the region and other concerned States, in accordance with paragraph 7 of its resolution 46/30 and taking into account the evolving situation in the region, and to seek from those States their views on the

\* A/69/xxx.

measures outlined in chapters III and IV of the study annexed to the report of the Secretary-General of 10 October 1990<sup>1</sup> or other relevant measures, in order to move towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East. By operative paragraph 11 of the same resolution, the Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its sixty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the resolution. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request.

2. On 19 February 2014, the Office for Disarmament Affairs sent a note verbale to all Member States drawing their attention to operative paragraphs 10 and 11 of General Assembly resolution 68/27 and seeking their views on the matter. Replies, which have been received from [Member States], are reproduced in section III below. [A reply from the European Union has been received and is reproduced in section IV, in accordance with the modalities set out in resolution 65/276.] Additional replies received from Member States Governments will be issued as addenda to the present report.

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## II. Observations

3. The Secretary-General deeply regrets that the recent intensive diplomatic efforts to advance the Middle East Peace Process have reached an impasse. While the Middle East continues to be subject to deep ~~transformations and~~ serious challenges, he reiterates that it is in the best interests of both Israelis and Palestinians to end the conflict and resolve all final status issues — including Jerusalem, borders, refugees and security — leading to the establishment of a sovereign, independent, contiguous and viable State of Palestine living side by side in peace with a secure State of Israel. The Secretary-General stresses that there is no substitute to

<sup>1</sup> A/45/435

negotiations to achieve this vision. In the current fragile environment, the parties must exercise maximum restraint and avoid further unilateral actions, which would undermine the resumption of talks.

4. As stated in previous reports, the Secretary-General continues to call for the full implementation of all relevant resolutions of the Security Council, including resolutions 1850 (2008) and 1860 (2009). He remains deeply committed to working towards a comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace on the basis of existing principles and agreements and to lending all the ~~United Nations~~-necessary support of the United Nations to this end.

5. Since the previous report of the Secretary-General,<sup>2</sup> the facilitator for the postponed Conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, Mr. Jaakko Laajava, Under-Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, together with the conveners for the Conference, the Secretary-General and the co-sponsors of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East adopted by the Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, intensified their efforts aimed at bringing the States of the region together to discuss and reach agreement on the arrangements for the Conference, including its agenda, modalities and rules of procedure.

6. Towards that end, the facilitator and conveners held three rounds of open-ended informal consultations with States of the region in Glion, Switzerland, from 21 to 22 October 2013, from 25 to 26 November 2013, and from 4 to 5 February 2014. These meetings enabled States of the

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<sup>2</sup> A/68/124 (Part I) and Add. I

region the opportunities to engage in constructive dialogue on the arrangements and outcome of the Conference as well as on matters pertaining to the establishment of the zone.

7. On 1 May 2014, the facilitator reported to the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 NPT Review Conference.<sup>3</sup> States parties took note of this report and renewed their appreciation for the tireless efforts of the facilitator. They also expressed appreciation for the constructive engagement of the States of region and took note of the intention of the facilitator and conveners to host additional informal meetings aimed at finalizing the preparations for the Conference. States parties recalled the importance of a process leading to the full implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East and the practical steps to that end endorsed at the 2010 Review Conference. Many States parties expressed support for convening the Conference as soon as possible before the end of 2014.

8. The facilitator and conveners held two subsequent rounds of informal consultative meetings with States of the region in Geneva, Switzerland, on 14 May 2014 and from 24 to 25 June 2014. The meetings allowed States of the region to continue their constructive engagement and serious consideration on the arrangements and outcome of the Conference, including on the basis of non-papers and proposals circulated by the facilitator and conveners as well as by States of the region. Despite these extended consultations, there continue to be differences among the parties on several important aspects of the Conference, including on its agenda, and hence agreement on the modalities for the Conference could not yet be reached.

9. The Secretary-General welcomes the removal of all declared **chemical** weapons from the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic, in accordance with its obligations under the Convention

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<sup>3</sup> NPT/CONF.2015/PC.III/10

on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction as well as under Security Council resolution S/RES/2118 (2013). This achievement marks a step toward the achievement of a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction.

10. The Secretary-General remains concerned that a failure to convene the Conference prior to the 2015 NPT Review Conference may frustrate the ability of States parties to conduct a successful review of the operation of the Treaty and could undermine the NPT and related non-proliferation and disarmament objectives, particularly in the Middle East. Therefore, the Secretary-General urges all the parties concerned to make determined efforts to finalize the arrangements for the Conference so it can be held as soon as possible in 2014. The Secretary-General hopes that the States of the region take advantage of the present opportunity afforded to engage directly on security issues relevant to the present circumstances in the region and through the Conference to initiate a process leading to the complete elimination of all weapons of mass destruction in the region, nuclear, chemical and biological and their delivery systems. The Secretary-General reaffirms his strong support for the facilitator and for Finland as the host Government for the Conference and expresses his deep appreciation for their continuing efforts.