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# Conference on Disarmament

30 August 2012

Original: English

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## Syrian Arab Republic on behalf of member States of G-21

### Working paper

#### Negative security assurances

1. The Group of 21 reaffirms that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. The Group remains convinced that as long as nuclear weapons exist, so also will the risk of their proliferation and possible use remain with us.
2. Pending the achievement of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, the Group reaffirms the urgent need to reach an early agreement on a universal; unconditional and legally-binding instrument to assure non-nuclear-weapon States (NNWS) against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. Such an instrument should be clear, credible, without any ambiguity, and should respond to the concerns of all the parties.
3. The Group believes that there is a need to recognize the right of NNWS not to be attacked by or threatened by the nuclear-weapons States (NWS) with the use of nuclear weapons and strongly calls upon the NWS to refrain from any such action or threat, whether implicit or explicit. This position is a long-standing one.
4. The Group underlines the unanimous conclusion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and to bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control.
5. The Group highlights the objectives laid down in General Assembly resolution 66/32 entitled "Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation", which, among other things, reaffirms multilateralism as the core principle in resolving disarmament and non-proliferation concerns.
6. The Group remains deeply concerned at strategic defense doctrines, which not only set out rationales for the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, but also maintain unjustifiable concepts on international security based on promoting and developing military alliance's nuclear deterrence policies.
7. The Group believes that, pending the total elimination of all nuclear weapons, the establishment of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones (NWFZs), on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned and taking into account provisions of the first UN General Assembly devoted to Disarmament (SSOD-I), is a

positive step and important measure towards strengthening global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. In this context, the Group welcomes the NWFZs established by treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok, Pelindaba, Semipalatinsk and Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free-status. The Group reiterates that in the context of nuclear-weapon-free zones, it is essential that NWS provide unconditional assurances against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons to all States of the zones.

8. The Group reiterates its support for the establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of all nuclear weapons. To this end, the Group reaffirms the need for the speedy establishment of NWFZ in the Middle East in accordance with the Security Council Resolution 487 (1981) and paragraph 14 of the Security Council Resolution 687 (1991) and the relevant General Assembly resolutions adopted by consensus. The G21 States Parties to the NPT welcome the initial steps taken towards realizing the follow-on actions agreed to during the 2010 NPT Review Conference for a process leading to the full implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East. The G21 States Parties to the NPT recall that the 1995 Resolution was an essential element of the package of decisions adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference and of the basis on which the Treaty was indefinitely extended without a vote. They look forward to the successful convening of the 2012 Conference on the establishment of a Middle East Zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, welcome the efforts undertaken by the Conference Facilitator and call on the Secretary General of the United Nations and Co-sponsors of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East to continue to exert all efforts toward the success of the 2012 Conference.

9. While the Group believes that the NWFZs are positive steps towards strengthening global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, it does not subscribe to the arguments stating that declarations that have been made by the NWS are sufficient, or that security assurances should only be granted in the context of nuclear-weapon free zones. In addition, given their geographical limitation, security assurances guaranteed to states-members of nuclear weapon free zones cannot substitute for universal legally-binding security assurances.

10. The Group recalls that the demand for security assurances was raised by the NNWS in the 1960s and it crystallized in 1968 during the concluding phase of the negotiations for the NPT. The response of the NWS reflected in Resolutions 255 (1968) and 984 (1995) of the Security Council was considered incomplete, partial and conditional by the NNWS. The demand for assurances therefore persists.

11. The Group accepts that while various approaches exist, efforts to conclude a universal and legally-binding instrument on security assurances to NNWS should be vigorously pursued. The Group considers that the conclusion of such an instrument would be an important step towards achieving the objectives of arms control, nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects.

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