
2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

14 May 2015

Original: English

New York, 27 April-22 May 2015

Conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction

Working paper submitted by the Russian Federation

1. The 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons reaffirms that the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference, which was an essential element of the outcome of the 1995 Conference and on the basis of which the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was indefinitely extended without a vote, remains valid until it is fully implemented.
2. The 2015 Review Conference confirms its support for the full implementation of the aims of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East.
3. The 2015 Review Conference calls on all States in the Middle East that have not done so to accede to the Non-Proliferation Treaty as non-nuclear-weapon States so as to achieve the universality of the Treaty at an early date.
4. The 2015 Review Conference deeply regrets that a conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction did not take place in 2012. The 2015 Review Conference nonetheless considers it necessary to redouble the efforts aimed at holding such a conference in the near future.
5. To this end, the 2015 Review Conference entrusts the United Nations Secretary-General with convening such a conference no later than 1 March 2016, with the aim of launching a continuous process of negotiating and concluding a legally binding treaty establishing a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction.
6. In order to ensure the proper preparation and successful outcome of the conference, the 2015 Review Conference urges all States of the region of the Middle East (defined as members of the League of Arab States, Israel and the Islamic Republic of Iran) to engage without delay in intensive direct consultations in appropriate formats at their discretion, including, first and foremost, through preparatory meetings to which all States of the region shall be invited. The primary



purpose of these consultations will be to reach consensus on an agenda and a final document of the conference to ensure the convening of a successful event that will be a practical first step towards the long-held and common goal of the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction.

7. In order to facilitate the process, the United Nations Secretary-General shall appoint a Special Representative. The three co-sponsors of the 1995 resolution will provide assistance to the process of consultations. The Special Representative and the co-sponsors of the 1995 resolution, in cooperation with the States of the Middle East shall spare no effort to ensure that the preparatory process is organized in the most efficient way possible. As soon as consensus on an agenda and a final document is reached, the United Nations Secretary-General will convene the conference within 45 days.

8. If, by 15 January 2016, consensus has not been reached, the United Nations Secretary-General shall send invitations to all States of the Middle East region to attend the conference, to be held no later than 1 March 2016. The consultations between regional States may continue up to the date of the opening of the conference. In any case, the conference cannot be postponed.

9. In addition to States of the region, the five nuclear-weapon States, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit and the League of Arab States shall be invited to attend the conference as observers.

10. The conference shall take as its terms of reference the 1995 resolution. All substantive decisions during the preparatory process and at the conference itself shall be taken by consensus.

11. The conference shall define follow-up steps leading to the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction.

12. The United Nations Secretary-General shall inform the 2020 Review Conference and the sessions of its Preparatory Committee on progress made and the status of implementation of the 1995 resolution.

13. States should assist in the preparation and holding of the conference, as well as follow-up steps, by contributing the necessary funds to enable the United Nations Secretary-General to proceed with the arrangements as outlined above in accordance with the established United Nations financial regulations.
