

THE AMMAN FRAMEWORK

Amman Framework Secretariat

Via The Arab Institute for Security Studies

Tel/Fax +962 6 5345085 Tel (Direct) +962 79 5569317

Amman - Jordan

Email: info@acsis.org - URL www.acsis.org

The Amman Framework

Statement

Supporting the United Nations Secretary General and the appointed facilitator for the 2012 conference on the Middle East –with commitment to launch the 2012 conference and the provision of continued support thereafter

Nuclear Weapons as well as other forms of weapons of mass destruction remain a serious challenge to the fragile security situation in the Middle East. The possession, development, stockpiling and deployment of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) in the Middle East represent a serious obstacle towards reaching an enduring regional political settlement. The existence of WMD capabilities in the region is motivating the dissemination of dual-nature technologies and will inevitably stimulate a non-conventional arms race.

Deterrence has been the essential motivation, the driving force and main stimulus for acquiring WMD capabilities within the Middle East. It is very important to address the notion of nuclear deterrence (and WMD deterrence), analyze its validity especially in a geographically confined area such as the Middle East. It is essential for countries of the region to plan and achieve their security requirements with no reliance on WMD capabilities. Weapons of Mass Destruction do not recognize borders, they do not discriminate between ethnicities or any component of the human race. The use of such weapons is strictly immoral and by virtue the same applies to its acquisition.

The year 2010 brought inspiring news and revived hope. The important decision by the 2010 NPT Review Conference (REVCON) of convening a conference to study the creation of a Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone in the Middle East in 2012 represent a golden opportunity and a step in the right direction, as it fulfills the core principles of the Non-Proliferation treaty.

Despite the long awaited NPT REVCON decision of marking 2012 as the year for an international meeting on establishing the zone in the Middle East, little progress has been witnessed, as portrayed in the delay of appointing a facilitator, the absence of a clear meeting agenda and the inability of identifying a host country.

The establishment of a Middle East free from WMD is recognized as the most favorable course of action to overcome impending political challenges in the region. Creating a WMD free zone in the Middle East is considered as an essential confidence building measure as well as being an important pre-requisite to resolving the world's longest standing conflict. The Amman Framework welcomes the United Nations Secretary General's (UNSG) recent appointment of a facilitator and designation of a host country for the meeting. Framework members strongly recommends holding the 2012 conference as planned, possibly within the year 2012 and with minimal possible delay. The Amman Framework calls upon the co-sponsors of the 1995 Resolution to demonstrate leadership and have an active role in this process, in collaboration with the UNSG and in consultation with states of the region. Failure to do so, may subject the 2012 process to a significant delay and undesirable consequences.

The Amman Framework believes that the 2012 conference is not an isolated endeavor but rather the beginning of an ongoing process. Hence, the appointed facilitator mission is expected to last beyond the year 2012, for which genuine support must be provided to enable a positive conclusion of the facilitator mission.

To invigorate the 2012 process, the Amman Framework has initiated the “State of the Resolution”, a mechanism by which the status of the 1995 NPT REVCON resolution on the Middle East and the subsequent outcomes of 2010 NPT REVCON are reviewed and monitored. The “State of the Resolution” engages regional parties, UN representatives, co-sponsors of the 1995 NPT resolution on the Middle East as well as civil society representatives.

Progress on the 2012 front (specifically the establishment of a WMDFZ in the Middle East) is a collective process. It must benefit from positive contribution and inputs of all stakeholders (including non-governmental and academic sectors). The primary intention should aim at coordinating (not replicating) and complementing (not competing) each other in achieving the mutual goal.

The 2012 process should benefit from the important contribution of international instruments including the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBTO) and others. The Amman Framework calls upon all states of the region to declare its willingness in adhering to legislative structure that regulate the spread of WMD including NPT, BWC and CWC.

Recent political turmoil in the Middle East must not alter or delay the course of action. Political changes encountered within regional political structures are expected to raise the level of expectations by newly emerging regimes, the Amman Framework strongly advice taking quick action and tangible steps.

The Amman Framework reaffirms that the 2012 conference on the Middle East is not intended to target a specific country or to create political embarrassment. The goals outlined in 2010 NPT REVCON are undeniably in the mutual and common interest of all parties concerned. The 2012 process is a platform that should be properly invested; it is an opportunity of facilitating constructive dialogue among states of the region. Detaching or distancing of countries from this process would have negative implications.

The Amman Framework will provide feedback and analysis to UNSG and the co-sponsors of the 1995 resolution. It will provide all possible support to the facilitator of the 2012 conference on the Middle East. Accordingly, the Framework invites all stakeholders and international instruments to sincerely engage in the 2012 process.

About the Amman Framework

The Amman Framework is an independent international commission that aims to support the outcomes of 2010 NPT REVCON, including the important decision of holding a conference in 2012 to study the creation of a Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone in the Middle East. One of the essential objectives of the Amman Framework is to providing full backing and assistance to the facilitator, prior to the 2012 process and following the meeting is achieved. The Amman Framework mechanism is established by the Arab Institute for Security Studies www.acsis.org and sponsored by the Norwegian Ministry for Foreign Affairs.