Statement on behalf of Member States in the League of Arab States
Before the general debate of the 2\textsuperscript{nd} session of preparatory committee of the 2015 NPT review conference

Geneva: 22\textsuperscript{nd} of April – 3\textsuperscript{rd} of May 2013
Mr. chairman;

On behalf of the states member in the League of Arab States, It gives me pleasure to join those who preceded me in congratulating you on your election as chairman for this session; we express our full trust in your wide experience and your leadership for this 2\textsuperscript{nd} preparatory committee.

Mr. chairman;

This 2\textsuperscript{nd} preparatory committee is held 3 years after the 2010 NPT review conference, which we consider a successful conference by adopting 4 action plans; three of them tackles the three pillars of the treaty (namely: nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy), whereas the fourth action plan tackles the implementation of 1995 resolution on the Middle East.

These important outcomes of the 2010 NPT review conference raised hopes of states parties in achieving tangible progress in implementing the objectives of the Treaty in general; while it raised the Arab Sates expectations in implementing the 1995 resolution on the Middle East in particular; after it remained freezed for more than 15 years due to the absence of implementation mechanisms.

Mr. chairman;

The Arab States reiterated in several occasions that the real success for a review process does not depend on adopting final documents or reaching specific agreements. However, it is measured by the extent these obligations and agreements are being implemented. There is no doubt that the 2\textsuperscript{nd} preparatory committee, for any review cycle, is considered the middle of the road, where we should take stock of progress achieved, identify the remaining tasks ahead, and plan for the next stage in the light of this assessment.

Mr. chairman;

Taking stock of what was achieved to date shows clearly that the progress towards the goal of nuclear disarmament is still limited. The continued possession of nuclear arsenals by nuclear-weapon states under the pretext of deterrence, as well as the continued development of new generations of such weapons, and assisting states not party to the Treaty; are all actions undermining the objectives of the Treaty and discourage achieving its universal adherence, despite the fact that the action plan that was adopted in 2010 NPT review conference involves specific steps to achieve progress towards the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. Not to mention the obligations that have not been implemented since the 2000 NPT Review conference. Moreover, the limited reductions in the number of deployed nuclear weapons can not be regarded as evidence of progress towards nuclear
disarmament, as long as there are new generations of nuclear weapons that are developed and updated, and as long as these weapons can be re-deployed.

Mr. chairman;

The Arab States pay high attention to the international cooperation in fields of peaceful uses of the nuclear energy, and reaffirm the respect for the "inalienable right of all States Parties to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes" according to Article IV of the Treaty.

In spite of the clarity of this issue, still the Arab States are watching with concerns attempts to re-interpret this article in a way that limits the benefit of some non-nuclear weapon states parties. Besides, we follow the efforts by some discriminatory arrangements to impose additional restrictions on some countries in a selective and politicized way.

Mr. chairman;

The Arab States hoped that the implementation of the fourth action plan concerning the 1995 Middle East resolution, is to be a concrete start to implement what had been agreed upon since more than 15 years, especially that the Action Plan has identified practical steps to make progress towards the goal of establishment of a Middle East into zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction.

However, after 3 years, we find that we have come to a deadlock, as the parties that have agreed to take responsibility for convening a conference in 2012 which is to be the beginning of a path to the establishment of a Middle East into zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction; have breached their responsibilities clearly, and progressed slowly in a way that can not be explained. Indeed, it took these parties more than 14 months – i.e: more than half of the prescribed period for the preparation of the Conference - just to designate the facilitator and the host government; an effort that could have been done in one month if the intentions were genuine.

Mr. chairman;

In spite of the cooperation of Arab States with all organizing/ convening parties, these parties announced unilaterally and contrary to the demands of all countries in the region - except Israel - the postponement of the conference even without identifying a new date for it. They tried to blame the whole countries of the region for the responsibility of postponement, although the Arab states and Iran have declared their intention to participate in the conference and called for the need to convene it in accordance to the scheduled timeframe.
Mr. chairman;

The breach of obligations agreed upon in 2010, as we pointed out repeatedly, questions the credibility of the NPT and reduces the importance of implementing any commitments made, or will be agreed upon within the framework of the review process.

There is no doubt that the Arab States are not considering the convening of the conference in which the international community committed itself to, as a goal in itself. However, this conference should come out with a serious action plan, a clear vision and a clear timetable leading to the full implementation of 1995 resolution on the Middle East.

Therefore, despite the resentment of the Arab States of the unjustified delay of the conference, we have come to the Second Preparatory Committee to call upon the States Parties to adopt a clear position demanding the conveners to hold the conference no later than the end of 2013, and to hold preparatory meetings for the conference that shall set its agenda, its frame and its final documents in accordance with the terms of reference and agreements set by the 2010 conference.

Mr. chairman;

The Arab States believe that the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East in accordance with the fourth action Plan mentioned in the final document of 2010 NPT review conference, is not only a minor or political commitment by the international community and conveners, but also it represents a key factor in achieving regional security, confidence-building, and the removal of tensions related to the issue of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East; through a comprehensive and balanced approach.

Mr. chairman;

The non-implementation of these commitments creates significant doubts concerning the consensus and compromises that are adopted in the framework of multilateral relations concerning the field of disarmament. Consequently, we are looking forward to tackle this issue in a way that removes these doubts and restore the importance of the review process.

Thank you Mr. chairman;