Second Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear weapons

The League of Arab States

Special Session on the Middle East
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Intervention Delivered By
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Mr. chairman,
Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak in this session. I would like, at the outset, to draw your attention to the Arab Working paper, which has been distributed in this session.

This working paper reflects the Arab position regarding the implementation of the 2010 action plan on the Middle East. In addition, we have attached with the working paper, the proposals of the Arab States that were given to the facilitator many months ago, in an attempt to engage and interact with him, with the conveners and with the other regional participants.

I urge you all to review the attachment as it provides an Arab perspective on the modalities of the conference in detail, and it also contains our views on the Agenda of the Conference and the working sessions. We have even provided our ideas of the expected outcomes of that conference.

The Arab States have declared many times that they will officially participate in the conference, and that the conference should be held within the agreed-upon-time-frame which is 2012. The Iranian government reiterated the exact same position at a later stage. So you can all imagine our surprise when the conference was postponed via different national statements by some of the conveners. Later, to our amazement, we discovered, as the esteemed head of the Russian delegation, Ambassador Ulyanov, declared in the General Debate, that Russia has not given its consent to the postponement, and that the conveners did not have the authority to postpone the Conference.

I would like to take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation to the responsible and transparent position of the Russian Federation. And also to ask the obvious question that if all the Arab States, Iran
and even a major convener, Russia, did not approve any postponement for the conference, how and why some of the conveners decided to ignore all those parties and declare the postponement? Obviously these were the dictations of a non-party over the whole NPT community.

Mr. Chairman,

We are now at a critical stage of the process, where there are clear attempts at shifting the blame to the Arabs. We have received a proposal to participate in multilateral consultations among the parties of the region to discuss the various elements of the conference. The Arabs welcomed the idea, and naturally asked for the agenda and framework of these consultations. We were surprised to hear that these consultations will have no agenda, no framework, and will not be held under the UN umbrella or any other coverage, and no new date for the conference would be announced! We were informed indirectly that if we do not accept to go to these consultations, the Arabs will be blamed for the failure to hold the conference and will be declared as inflexible.

This is why we are declaring here that the Arab States are ready to attend a preparatory meeting with all regional states that will declare officially their intention to attend the Conference, and that these preparatory meetings will be co-chaired by the facilitator and the UN, under the umbrella of the United Nations. Invitation letters should be issued with a clear agenda for these preparatory meetings, which should focus on the preparations for the conference and should not deviate from the mandate and terms of references agreed upon in 2010.

We stress that these are not pre-conditions, but are basic criteria that should have been automatically incorporated in the proposal.
Finally, we are clearly not ready to renegotiate the 2010 document, (and will not tolerate any attempt at shifting the blame to us). We hope that the NPT parties will insist on holding the conference no later than 2013, and declare in the strongest language possible, their refusal of the postponement of the conference, which constitutes a clear violation of the commitments undertaken in 2010 and to a consensus document.

I thank you Mr. Chairman