
Appendix C

Declaration of Principles and Statements of Intent on Arms Control and Regional Security¹

Preamble

The regional participants in the Arms Control and Regional Security working group,

Reaffirming their respect for the UN Charter,

Bearing in mind the urgent necessity of achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement in the Middle East based on U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338, and conscious of the historic breakthroughs since the 1991 Madrid Middle East Peace Conference, particularly the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles and the Common Agenda between Jordan and Israel,

Recognizing that the multilateral working groups, including the Arms Control and Regional Security working group, should continue to complement the bilateral negotiations and help improve the climate for resolving the core issues at the heart of the Middle East peace process, and that the Madrid Conference also created the opportunity to cooperate in addressing additional issues of region-wide concern,

Agreeing that all regional parties should pursue the common purpose of achieving full and lasting relations of peace, openness, mutual confidence, security, stability and cooperation throughout the region,

Embarking in this context on a process through the Arms Control and Regional Security working group to establish arms control and regional security arrangements aimed at achieving equal security for all at the lowest

possible level of armaments and military forces, safeguarding the region from the dangers and ominous consequences of future wars and the horrors of mass destruction, and enabling all possible resources to be devoted to the welfare of the peoples of the region, including such areas as economic and social development,

Recognizing the importance of preventing the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons and of preventing the excessive accumulation of conventional arms in enhancing international and regional peace and security,

Aware that military means, while needed to fulfill the inherent right of self-defense and to discourage aggression, cannot by themselves provide security and that enduring security requires the peaceful resolution of conflicts in the region and the promotion of common interests,

Conscious that the arms control and regional security process seeks to achieve a stable balance among military capabilities in the region that takes into account quantitative, qualitative and structural factors, and that provides for equal security for all,

Welcoming the special role of the United States and Russia as active co-sponsors of the Middle East peace process, and calling on them and other extra-regional states to provide continuing support for the objectives and arrangements of the arms control and regional security process,

Recognizing that the full realization of the objectives contained in this Declaration would be facilitated by the involvement in the arms control and regional security process of all regional parties, and calling on all such parties to support the principles contained in this Declaration and, in this connection, to join the arms control and regional security process at an early date,

Have adopted the following:

Guidelines for the Middle East Arms Control and Regional Security Process

The participants recognize the following as guidelines for the arms control and regional security process:

—The arms control and regional security process, as an integral part of the Middle East peace process, should create a favorable climate for pro-

gress in the bilateral negotiations and complement them by preparing and implementing measures in parallel with progress in the bilateral talks.

—The arms control and regional security process should strive to enhance security and general stability on a region-wide basis, even beyond the scope of the Arab-Israeli conflict, by pursuing regional security and arms control measures that reduce tension or the risk of war.

—The scope of the process must be comprehensive, covering a broad range of regional security, confidence and security building, and arms control measures that address all threats to security and all categories of arms, conventional and non-conventional.

—The basic framework of the process is to pursue a determined, step-by-step approach which sets ambitious goals and proceeds toward them in a realistic way.

—At no stage should the arms control and regional security process diminish the security of any individual state or give a state a military advantage over any other.

—The basis for decision-making on each issue in the arms control and regional security process should be consensus by the regional participants directly concerned.

Statements of Intent on Objectives for the Arms Control and Regional Security Process

In the context of achieving a just, secure, comprehensive and lasting peace and reconciliation, the participants agree to pursue, inter alia, the following arms control and regional security objectives:

—preventing conflict from occurring through misunderstanding or miscalculation by adopting confidence and security building measures that increase transparency and openness and reduce the risk of surprise attack and by developing regional institutional arrangements that enhance security and the process of arms control;

—limiting military spending in the region so that additional resources can be made available to other areas such as economic and social development;

—reducing stockpiles of conventional arms and preventing a conventional arms race in the region as part of an effort to provide enhanced security at lower levels of armaments and militarization, to reduce the

threat of large-scale destruction posed by such weapons, and to move towards force structures that do not exceed legitimate defensive requirements; and

—establishing a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons and their delivery systems.