

The Amman Framework in Support of UNSG Efforts

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A two days meeting, in support of the United Nations Secretary General and the appointed facilitator for the 2012 meeting on the Middle East, concluded its activities in the Jordanian capital (Amman).

The meeting was organized by the Arab Institute for Security Studies (ACISIS) and sponsored by the Norwegian Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The event hosted representatives of governmental and non-governmental agencies, as well as affiliates to the EU and the UN. Discussions included means of supporting the outcomes of the 2010 NPT REVCON, including the important decision to hold a conference in the framework of the creation of a Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone in the Middle East.

Despite the 2010 NPT REVCON decision to mark 2012 as the year for an international meeting on establishing this zone in the Middle East, the concept of a WMD free zone saw little progress, primarily due to the significant delay of appointing a facilitator and the absence of a clear agenda for the meeting.

The Amman meeting concluded with a decision of establishing an "Advisory Committee", which will be referred to as "the Amman Framework". The Amman Framework aims to support the UNSG and the appointed facilitator, in addition to promoting the important role of the three depository states of the 1995 NPT resolution. One of the tasks among the various responsibilities of the Amman framework is the coordination and liaison with other on-going initiatives that aim to support the holding of the 2012 meeting on the Middle East.

During its discussions, the Amman Framework addressed a number of issues, including the effects of linking the nomination of a facilitator and a host country (as a single package), the consequences of recent political turmoil in the Middle East (i.e. the Arab Spring), the study of the role of international instruments (and/or) organizations in the 2012 process as well as the identification of existing obstacles and available opportunities.

One of the first activities of the Amman Framework is the organization of an international meeting on 29 November 2011 in the Jordanian capital. The meeting is expected to lay the grounds for the 2012 conference on the Middle East. Invitations have already been sent out to regional and international parties and stakeholders.

Note: for more information about the "Amman Framework" and its activities, please contact:

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