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Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East

The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East

Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum**

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* [A/68/150](#).

** The information contained in the addendum was received after the submission of the main report.



III. Replies received from Governments

Australia

[Original: English]

[3 June 2013]

Australia continues to support the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, freely arrived at by regional States. The Government of Australia supports the outcome of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, concerning the 1995 Middle East resolution. Australia, through the 10-member Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative, has released statements (the most recent of which is from the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative Ministerial Meeting, held in The Hague on 9 April 2013) regretting the postponement of the conference on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East and expressing continuing support for the facilitator. The April 2013 statement also calls for the earliest possible convening of a successful conference with the participation of all States of the region on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at. Australia will continue to support constructive efforts towards progress in the implementation of a Middle East nuclear-weapon-free zone.

Colombia

[Original: Spanish]

[20 June 2013]

Colombia is firmly committed to the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime and to the implementation of its three pillars: disarmament; non-proliferation; and promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Colombia is a State party to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco), which it adopted by Act No. 45 of 1971 and which entered into force domestically on 6 September 1972. Through this Treaty, our region became the world's first nuclear-weapon-free zone in a densely populated area.

In accordance with the Treaty of Tlatelolco, our country has undertaken to use exclusively for peaceful purposes the nuclear material and facilities which are under its jurisdiction, and to prohibit and prevent in its territory the testing, use, manufacture, production or acquisition by any means whatsoever of any nuclear weapons.

Colombia attaches importance to the establishment of new nuclear-weapon-free zones in regions where they do not exist, in accordance with the principles and guidelines set out in the 1999 report of the Disarmament Commission ([A/54/42](#)). Moreover, Colombia is of the view that these zones must be established on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned.

Colombia also acknowledges the importance of establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones, as they constitute a regional mechanism that:

- Strengthens the disarmament and non-proliferation regime and, as a result, contributes to regional stability and international peace and security
- Ensures the absence of nuclear weapons, thereby reinforcing the security of all the States that belong to the zone
- Reduces the likelihood that nuclear weapons will be used in a conflict involving States that belong to the zone
- Serves as a confidence-building measure among the States that belong to the zone, in particular by promoting transparency on nuclear issues, in addition to promoting cooperation on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy
- Strengthens the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime through the treaty establishing the nuclear-weapon-free zone and the legally binding instruments on negative security assurances provided by nuclear-weapon States. In effect, such instruments establish the obligation of nuclear-weapon States to refrain from the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons against States that belong to the nuclear-weapon-free zone
- Attests to the commitment of the States of the zone to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

As has traditionally been its wont, Colombia supported the most recent resolution on the subject (resolution [67/28](#)), introduced at the sixty-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly and entitled “Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East”, which was adopted without a vote.

Similarly, in the context of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Colombia has voted in favour of the resolution on the application of IAEA safeguards in the Middle East, which is traditionally introduced at the sessions of the Agency’s General Conference. It should be noted that the most recent resolution on the subject is resolution GC(56)/RES/15.

Lastly, Colombia supports the prompt convening of a conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, in accordance with the decision adopted at the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Egypt

[Original: English]

[1 June 2013]

I. Introduction

The item entitled “Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East” was first included in the agenda of the General Assembly in 1974 at the request of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Since 1980, the General Assembly has annually adopted a resolution without a vote, thereby reflecting unanimous endorsement by the States Members of the United Nations of its objective calling for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the

Middle East, and Egypt has relentlessly pursued the objective of ridding the Middle East of the threat of nuclear weapons.

II. Achieving the universality of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in the Middle East

The main impediment towards establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East has been Israel. Egypt notes with grave concern that Israel remains the sole country in the Middle East not to adhere to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. While all States of the Middle East have become parties to the Treaty, Israel persists in ignoring repeated calls for its adherence to the Treaty as a non-nuclear-weapon State and the placement of its nuclear facilities under comprehensive International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards. Its refusal to adhere to the Treaty has perpetuated a dangerous imbalance and, accordingly, presents a threat to regional and international peace and security.

The 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons addressed, in its Final Document, Israel's non-adherence to the Treaty. It recalled "the importance of Israel's accession to the Treaty and the placement of all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards", and reaffirmed "the urgency and importance of achieving universality of the Treaty" (see [NPT/CONF.2010/50 \(Vol. I\)](#)).

Egypt also reaffirms the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, and the States parties to the Treaty reiterated unanimously at the 2000 Review Conference the importance of Israel's accession to the Treaty as a non-nuclear-weapon State and the placement of all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive IAEA safeguards. In its Final Document ([NPT/CONF.2000/28 \(Parts I and II\)](#)), the 2000 Review Conference recalled that "in paragraph 4 of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, the Conference 'call[ed] upon all States in the Middle East that had not yet done so, without exception, to accede to the Treaty as soon as possible and to place their nuclear facilities under full-scope International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards'". The Conference also "noted, in th[at] connection, that the report of the United Nations Secretariat on the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East ([NPT/CONF.2000/7](#)) state[d] that several States [had] acceded to the Treaty and that, with th[o]se accessions, all States of the region of the Middle East, with the exception of Israel, [were] States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The Conference welcome[d] the accession of th[o]se States and reaffirm[ed] the importance of Israel's accession to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the placement of all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive IAEA safeguards, in realizing the goal of universal adherence to the Treaty in the Middle East."

In addition to urgent calls for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, inter alia, in the context of the Non-Proliferation Treaty review processes, IAEA, the General Assembly and the Security Council called upon Israel "urgently to place its nuclear facilities under the safeguards of IAEA" (see Council resolution [487 \(1981\)](#)) and recalled "the objective of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East" (see Council resolution [687 \(1991\)](#), preamble).

III. Implementation of the 2010 Review Conference action plan

The 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty action plan clearly recognizes the Middle East resolution as an essential element of the outcome of the 1995 Review Conference and of the basis on which the Treaty was indefinitely extended without a vote in 1995. In an effort to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference emphasized the importance of a process leading to full implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East and, to that end, endorsed a number of practical steps. Among those steps was the convening by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the co-sponsors of the 1995 resolution, in consultation with the States of the region, of “a conference in 2012, to be attended by all States of the Middle East, on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction”. The Final Document also stipulated that the 2012 conference should take as its terms of reference the 1995 resolution.

The Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference also stipulated as practical steps the appointment, by the Secretary-General and the co-sponsors of the 1995 resolution, in consultation with the States of the region, of a facilitator with a specific mandate in this regard, and the designation of a host Government for the 2012 conference. This eventually took place in October 2011, almost 17 months after the adoption of the action plan. We thank the facilitator for his diligent efforts.

To this end, Egypt believes that the conference should be a step forward towards establishing the nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and expresses its intent to cooperate fully with all relevant parties, in accordance with the 2010 Final Document, so that the conference will make a positive and meaningful contribution towards establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. The conference is not an end in itself, but must launch a sustained and serious process towards the full implementation of the 1995 resolution and the establishment of the Middle East nuclear-weapon-free zone, involving concrete steps and measures to be taken in this regard within specific time frames.

Egypt reiterates the call for the prompt and full implementation of the 1995 resolution and the 2000 and 2010 outcomes on the Middle East, and the special responsibility that rests in this regard with the nuclear-weapon States, especially the three depositary States which co-sponsored the 1995 resolution, in addition to the Secretary-General.

In this context, Egypt regretted the postponement of the 2012 conference and considers it a breach of the obligations of the conveners of the conference vis-à-vis the international community regarding the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East and the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The announcement of the unilateral postponement of the conference to a non-specified future date without even consulting with the States of the region followed the expressed commitment of all but one country in the Middle East to attend such a conference. Egypt rejected the excuses that were given. The postponement was a flagrant non-fulfilment of agreed commitments. This is yet another step in a long history of unimplemented decisions regarding the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons in the Middle East.

IV. Participation of Egypt in regional and cross-regional efforts

The Final Communiqué of the twelfth session of the Islamic Summit Conference, held in Cairo on 6 and 7 February 2013, reaffirmed the continued support for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, and called upon Israel, as the only country in the Middle East that is not a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to accede unconditionally and without further delay to the Treaty as a non-nuclear-weapon party and to place its nuclear facilities under the comprehensive safeguards of IAEA. It also regretted the postponement of the 2012 conference and expressed grave concern over the failure of Israel to declare its participation in the conference, thus continuing to undermine the convening of the conference as well as the realization of the Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, and expressed the sincere belief that the pretexts announced for postponing the conference were rather unrealistic, especially in relation to the provisions stated in the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference.

In the same vein, Egypt associates itself with the joint report presented by Libya on behalf of the members of the League of Arab States with regard to the implementation of the resolution concerned. In this context, Egypt recalls that the Arab Ministerial Council, in its resolution 7580 of 13 January 2013, rejected the justifications provided by some of the conveners and held them responsible for the delay and its consequences before the international community. The Council instructed the Senior Officials Committee to continue to communicate with the conveners and the facilitator to set a new date for the conference, as early as possible and before the start of the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference.

The Council also instructed the Senior Officials Committee to continue its engagement with geographical and political groups to rally support for the convening of the conference and to take other steps deemed appropriate in this connection. The Council resolution also instructed the Committee to request the facilitator to continue the current format of bilateral consultations with the parties concerned, and stipulated that the Committee should consider the proposal to participate in extended consultations with regional parties in accordance with the terms of reference agreed upon in the action plan for the Middle East contained in the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference, including the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, which constitutes the terms of reference of the 2012 conference, and criteria which guarantee Arab interests, including:

- (a) The establishment of a set date for the conference;
- (b) Holding the consultations under the auspices of the United Nations and with a set agenda;
- (c) The criterion that those countries which formally announce their participation in the conference can attend the consultations.

The Council further highlighted that in the event that a date was not set for the convening of the 2012 conference at the earliest opportunity, the Arab States would determine what steps could be taken in all disarmament forums, including the second and third Preparatory Committees as well as the 2015 Review Conference, and requested the Committee of Senior Officials to develop a comprehensive plan for the upcoming period.

V. Preparing for the 2015 Review Conference

Within the context of the Non-Proliferation Treaty review cycles, Egypt submitted individually or collectively several working papers on the issue of the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, containing substantive recommendations on concrete measures and actions needed for the full implementation of the resolution, the most recent of which was a working paper submitted by Tunisia on behalf of the Arab Group to the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held in Geneva from 22 April to 3 May 2013, entitled “Implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East” (NPT/CONF.2015/PC.II/WP.34), which further elaborates the Arab and Egyptian positions and views on the issue.

Egypt decided to withdraw from the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference right after the session dedicated to the Middle East and implementation of the 1995 Middle East resolution to protest this unacceptable and continuous failure to implement the 1995 Middle East resolution. The breach of the clear decision, contained in the 2010 action plan, to hold a conference in 2012 is yet another failure to implement a key Treaty commitment. Egypt’s withdrawal from the second Preparatory Committee aimed to send a strong message of dissatisfaction with the lack of seriousness in dealing with the issue of establishing a zone free of nuclear weapons, a central component of regional, Arab and Egyptian national security, which impacts directly international peace and security. As a strong supporter of the Non-Proliferation Treaty regime, Egypt is very concerned about the ramifications of the non-fulfilment of commitments for the credibility and sustainability of the regime, which was indefinitely extended based on the 1995 Middle East resolution. The Treaty members, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, IAEA and the Treaty community at large, should all bear their responsibility in this regard to uphold international legitimacy.

VI. Conclusion

Egypt firmly believes that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in areas of conflict contributes significantly to easing tensions, confidence-building, conflict prevention and the development of peaceful relations and mutual cooperation. Egypt believes that the only criterion for the commencement of negotiations on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East is the existence of political will, whether among States in the region or parties that have a direct stake in the region’s security and stability. The existence of political will among all States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, including all States parties in the region, has been manifested through their consensual adoption of a process leading to the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

This manifestation of commitment by States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty needs to be implemented promptly through a clear agenda, under the auspices of the United Nations and after consulting with all the parties concerned. Thus, during its current term of tenure of the one hundred thirty-ninth session of the Arab Ministerial Council, Egypt looks forward to earnest efforts of cooperation with the Secretary-General and the depositary States to undertake the agreed measures

necessary to pave the way for the early commencement of negotiations on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

The success of such negotiations would represent a serious breakthrough in efforts geared towards regaining security in a region currently facing an Israeli nuclear threat that provokes further proliferation and presents security challenges. Egypt expresses its intent to cooperate actively with all parties in an effort to safeguard the Middle East against all nuclear threats through a comprehensive and balanced approach that can ensure the security of all States of the region against nuclear dangers through the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons.

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

[Original: English]
[3 June 2013]

1. The idea of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East was proposed for the very first time by Iran in 1974, which indicates its long-standing commitment to the promotion of international peace and security, the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in this volatile region, as well as the realization of a nuclear-weapon-free world.
2. The consensual and constant adoption, since 1980, by the General Assembly, of resolutions calling for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East signifies the particular importance of the realization of this noble idea for the international community.
3. Moreover, the States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons have highlighted the establishment of such a zone in the Middle East as a matter of priority in all consensus final documents, resolutions and decisions of the successive Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty.
4. The adoption, by the Review and Extension Conference of the Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1995, of a separate resolution on the Middle East, as the essential part of a package for the indefinite extension of the Treaty, signifies the importance of this goal, which, regrettably, has not yet been implemented.
5. Additionally, the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty, while noting that all countries in the region of the Middle East, with the exception of Israel, are parties to the Treaty, reaffirmed “the importance of Israel’s accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and placement of all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards, in realizing the goal of universal adherence to the Treaty in the Middle East” and paving the way for the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.
6. In an important effort to pursue the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty renewed the resolve of States parties to the Treaty to undertake, individually and collectively, all necessary measures aimed at prompt implementation of the resolution and, while recalling “the reaffirmation by the 2000 Review Conference of the importance of Israel’s accession to the Treaty and the placement of all its nuclear

facilities under comprehensive IAEA safeguards”, unanimously decided to convene a conference in 2012, to be attended by all States of the Middle East, on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction.

7. This decision was supported overwhelmingly by the international community and many efforts were exerted for the successful commencement of the conference in Helsinki in late 2012.

8. Consistent with its long-standing policy on and commitment to the idea of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, Iran positively engaged in consultations conducted by the facilitator of the conference and declared, well in advance, its readiness to participate in the conference.

9. However, it was no surprise to Iran that the planned Helsinki conference was prevented by the United States only owing to the opposition of the Israeli regime.

10. Notwithstanding the global call for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, owing to the intransigent policy of the Zionist regime of Israel, including its rejection of becoming a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the refusal of this regime to place its unsafeguarded nuclear facilities under the IAEA verification system, no progress has been achieved so far towards the establishment of such a zone.

11. The irresponsible behaviour of the Israeli regime, which, regrettably, enjoys the strong support of its big patron, the United States, has put the establishment of such a zone in serious doubt.

12. It is crystal clear that the aggressive and expansionist policies of the Zionist regime, its large arsenal of nuclear and other sophisticated weapons, as well as its non-adherence to international norms and principles and regulations of international law, are the only obstacle to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

13. Indeed, the dark history of this regime, including its barbaric attacks during the past several years on Lebanon, the Gaza Strip and Syria, as well as the countries outside the region is indicative of how much nuclear weapons in the hands of such a regime could endanger regional and international peace and security.

14. In fact, peace and stability cannot be achieved in the Middle East while the Israeli regime has a massive nuclear arsenal, continues to threaten the region and beyond, and defies the repeated calls by the international community to comply with international norms and principles.

15. Against this backdrop, to promote peace and security in the Middle East and to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone therein, the international community has no choice but to exert utmost pressure on the Zionist regime to compel it to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, without any precondition and further delay and as a non-nuclear-weapon party, and to place all its nuclear facilities and activities under the comprehensive safeguards of IAEA.

16. Additionally, in order to pave the way for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, this regime should be forced to become a party, without any precondition and further delay, to other international legally

binding instruments banning weapons of mass destruction and to abide by the international norms and rules of international law.

17. On its part, the Islamic Republic of Iran, by ratifying all international treaties banning weapons of mass destruction, namely the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, and fully implementing their provisions, has demonstrated its strong resolve in support of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

18. In addition, the Islamic Republic of Iran has spared no efforts in supporting meaningful steps aimed at making progress towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East in appropriate international forums, including the successive Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and meetings of their Preparatory Committees.

19. The holding of two international conferences on disarmament and non-proliferation, in Tehran, on 17 and 18 April 2010 and 12 and 13 June 2011, at which the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East was also thoroughly examined, is among the recent contributions of the Islamic Republic of Iran towards the establishment of such a zone in the Middle East.

20. The Islamic Republic of Iran will continue its strong support for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East by taking necessary practical measures to that end.

Norway

[Original: English]
[6 June 2013]

Executive summary

Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation are among the key priorities of Norway's foreign policy. Recognizing the important contribution of nuclear-weapon-free zones to the strengthening of the international non-proliferation regime and to regional and global peace and security, Norway continues to support the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, freely arrived at by regional States. Furthermore, the Norwegian Government fully supports the Final Document of the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, which endorsed practical steps for the full implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, including the convening of a conference on the establishment of the Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction in 2012. Norway strongly supports this conference and has provided both political and financial support in this regard. We hope the conference can be held as soon as possible.

The Government of Norway is fully aware of the challenges to proliferation affecting the Middle East region and the establishment of a zone free of weapons of

mass destruction and their delivery systems. Hence, Norway has repeatedly called upon all States in the region to make progress towards the establishment of such a zone and to refrain from taking measures that would preclude the achievement of this objective. Norway is of the view that the conclusion of the International Atomic Energy Agency comprehensive safeguards agreements and additional protocols by all States in the region is essential not only for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone, but also as a means to strengthen the non-proliferation regime. It is imperative that compliance with those legal instruments be fully assured.

Norway is a party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty. Universal adherence and compliance to these vital instruments and their control mechanisms provide a fundamental bulwark against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Norway calls for full universalization and full compliance with the obligations set by these treaties.

Portugal

[Original: English]
[6 June 2013]

Portugal believes that the international community should remain seized of the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East and of the outcome of the 2010 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Review Conference.

In this context, Portugal notes with concern that the conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction did not take place as envisaged in 2012, but hopes that the conference will be convened in 2013. Portugal believes that only through cooperation and compromise will this conference be successfully convened and the long-term goal it serves attained. This is why Portugal has urged all parties to continue to engage with the depositaries and the appointed facilitator, Ambassador Laajava of Finland. Portugal continues to support the commendable work of the facilitator and his team.

Portugal also aligns itself with the views expressed by the European Union, whose Non-Proliferation Consortium organized, in 2011 and 2012, two seminars in support of a process aimed at establishing a zone free of weapons of mass destruction and means of delivery in the Middle East. Portugal considers these seminars to be of key importance to the building of confidence between all parties in the region.
