• On the 28th of September 2013 at the UNGA, Egypt declared its initiative to establish the Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and all other Weapons of Mass Destruction in the Middle East (First: All states in the Middle East, as well as the five permanent members of the Security Council, should deposit official letters with the Secretary General of the United Nations, confirming their support for declaring the Middle East a region free from weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear, chemical and biological weapons / Second: States of the region that have not signed or ratified any of the international instruments on weapons of mass destruction, should, before the end of this year, commit themselves to becoming parties to these instruments). They should deposit letters to this effect with the Security Council, in order for the Secretary General of the United Nations to arrange for accession by all states of the region to occur simultaneously). Almost all Arab states have carried out the first executive step of the Egyptian Initiative.

• Egypt stresses its concern at the threat to humanity posed by the continued existence of nuclear weapons, and reaffirms that the total elimination of nuclear weapons, which represents the primary objective of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, is the only guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. This objective is dependent upon the implementation by the nuclear-weapon States of their obligations under Article VI and the achievement of universal adherence to the Treaty.

• The 2010 Review Conference agreed on an action plan on nuclear disarmament, which includes concrete steps for the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Accordingly, Egypt strongly calls for prompt and full implementation of that action plan.

• The negotiations of a phased program for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified time frame ending in 2025, including a nuclear weapons convention (NWC), is necessary and should commence without any further delay.

• The continued possession by nuclear weapon states of nuclear arsenals for deterrence purposes, the development of new generations of such weapons and the provision of assistance to states not party to the Treaty, thus perpetuating their non-adherence, as well as the continued deployment of

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nuclear weapons in territories of non-nuclear weapon States through nuclear sharing arrangements of military alliances, undermines the objectives of the Treaty, and the presumed equality, irrespective of membership in military alliances, among the non-nuclear weapon States.

• The International Atomic Energy Agency Comprehensive Safeguards constitute the NPT's only verifications mechanism. Egypt believes that international efforts that aim to implement treaty commitments concerning nuclear non-proliferation parallel to those efforts directed to fulfilling commitments in the field of nuclear disarmament must of course be implemented through the Agency's verification activities, given that it is the sole international agency with the mandate to pursue this role.

• IAEA's role while successful in ensuring the non-diversion of nuclear activities or material to military nuclear programs, has so far had a limited role in preventing vertical proliferation, or in verifying nuclear disarmament.

• Egypt has remained firmly committed to honoring its obligations under its Comprehensive Safeguards agreement, and has remained consistently ever since entering into those obligations. Therefore, it is surprising when those countries that honor their commitments are asked to enter into additional verification obligations, especially in the light of the continued existence of completely unsafeguarded facilities in the Middle East.

• This has especially made clear when NNWS are faced with additional pressures aiming at the imposition of more commitments on them in the area of safeguards. These Commitments are neither obligatory nor related to the provisions of the Treaty.

• Egypt emphasizes that promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy for the realization of "the inalienable right of all parties to the Treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes" as stipulated in its Article IV, constitutes one of the fundamental objectives of the Treaty.
Egypt stresses particularly the obligation of developed countries to promote the legitimate need of the developing countries to nuclear energy, by fully respecting this right with a view to achieving the widest benefits and applying pertinent elements of sustainable development in their activities.

Egypt views with concern efforts by certain discriminatory arrangements to impose additional restrictions on some but not on others, in a manner that is clearly politicized and does not contribute to the implementation of the NPT's objectives, in particular its universality, as well as interference in the internal affairs of states by attempting to influence the determination of their nuclear energy requirements or to restrict their choice to achieve self-sufficiency in the area of fuel supply.

Egypt has exerted relentless efforts over the years to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, both regionally and globally. Due to our recognition of the unacceptable inhumane consequences of these weapons and our profound belief that weapons of mass destruction can only fuel instability, we have been at the forefront calling for the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. The delayed 2012 conference on establishing a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) – as mandated by the outcome of the NPT 2010 Review Conference – provides a framework for constructive engagement between all the states of the region. Viewed strategically, the establishment of the Middle East Nuclear Free Zone is meant to advance the broader cause of security and peace in the region.

The breach of the 2010 Action Plan's clear decision to hold a Conference in 2012 is yet another failure to implement a key NPT commitment. Egypt's withdrawal from the NPT 2nd Prepcom 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 affects directly international peace and security. As a strong supporter of the NPT regime, Egypt is very concerned about the ramifications of the non-fulfillment of commitments on the credibility and sustainability of the NPT regime, which was indefinitely extended based on the 1995 Middle East Resolution.
• It is imperative that this conference be held without further delay, at the latest in the first quarter of 2014 (before the NPT 3rd Prepcom in New York) with all states of the region present. We ask the conference facilitator to urgently send out the invitations, while clearly indicating in it the date of the conference, its terms of reference (1995 & 2010 conclusions) and that it will be held under the auspices of the United Nations.

• Reiterating Egypt's longstanding commitment to disarmament, and its continued pursuit the above objectives, including by working within its region and broader groupings such as the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) which it currently chairs, New Agenda Coalition (NAC), the G-21, and other partners and parties. We also recognize the important role played by Non-Governmental Organizations and civil society in the field of disarmament.

• Introducing the idea that the Nuclear-Weapon States shall declare their political commitment to remove all nuclear weapons from the world within a defined timeline through a legally binding international instrument.

• Supporting the high-level meeting launch (26th of September 2013), hoping to negotiate a process to reach an agreement to prohibit the use, possession, development, production, stockpiling and transfer of nuclear weapons.

• Supporting the idea of naming an International Day on nuclear disarmament that would include activities that reflect on integrated efforts to contribute to the preparation for a Treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons, through a coordinated plan of action, that provides an opportunity for governments, civil society, parliaments, media, non-governmental organizations, universities, and research centers to contribute positively in this endeavour.