

Information Circular

INFCIRC/846

Date: 20 December 2012

General Distribution

Original: English

Communication dated 11 December 2012 received from the Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the Agency

1. The Secretariat has received a note verbale dated 11 December 2012 from the Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the Agency, enclosing the statement by the Philippines on the postponement of the 2012 Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and all Other Weapons of Mass Destruction.
2. The aforementioned communication and, as requested by the Permanent Mission of the Philippines, the enclosed statement are herewith circulated for the information of Member States.



EMBASSY AND PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
VIENNA

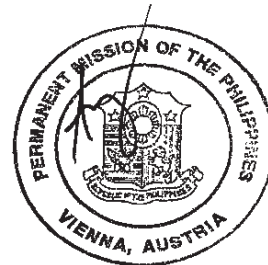
No. VN-PH- 590 -2012

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Vienna presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and has the honor to forward the enclosed **Philippine Statement on the Postponement of the 2012 Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and All Other Weapons of Mass Destruction.**

The Permanent Mission has further the honor to request that said Philippine Statement be circulated among the Member States of the IAEA.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Vienna avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the IAEA the assurances of its highest consideration.

Vienna, 11 December 2012



**PHILIPPINE STATEMENT ON THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE 2012 CONFERENCE
ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MIDDLE EAST ZONE FREE OF NUCLEAR
WEAPONS AND ALL OTHER WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION**

The Philippines, in its capacity as President of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), expresses disappointment that the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and All Other Weapons of Mass Destruction, in accordance with the 2010 NPT Review Conference Outcome Document, will not be convened in 2012.

Two years ago, the 2010 NPT Review Conference produced a consensus outcome which was a result of a delicate balance of concerns.

The 2012 Middle East Conference is the first real test of our resolve to achieve the commitments made in 2010.

The stability and progress of the Middle East is essential for world peace and security. The goal of ridding the region of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction is an important building block for a durable peace and stability in the Middle East.

The Conference may not result in an outright agreement on a WMD-free zone. It is a crucial first step towards achieving that objective.

The Philippines is deeply concerned that the failure to convene the Conference in 2012 may have serious implications on the next NPT Review Conference and even to the Treaty itself. The building up of the dissatisfaction over the non-implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East may come to a point that could lead to the unraveling of agreements reached in the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference.

A conference must be held soonest if an approximation of the integrity of the consensus outcome of the 2010 NPT Review Conference is to be achieved.

The Philippines urges the United Nations Secretary-General and the three cosponsors of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East, as well as the Facilitator and the countries in the region, to exert utmost efforts to ensure that a conference is held at the soonest time possible, following the elements of the 2010 NPT Review Conference Outcome Document.

3 December 2012
