**BUILDING A NUCLEAR-WEOPON-FREE WORLD**

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me and on behalf of my delegation as well, to thank the Ministry of Foreign affairs and the Parliament of Kazakhstan, and the PNND for gathering us all here today. Their hard work and generosity to make this event a reality is another small step towards our shared goal.

This is not the first, and certainly not the last time, that Kazakhstan has been a friend to Jordan or the cause of nuclear disarmament. We again commend the Kazakh government for swiftly removing all its nuclear weapons and taking every action to heal from the scars of nuclear testing.

We all know that wars will still persist whether these horrid weapons exist or not, so we must ensure that future conflicts cannot threaten the existence of all mankind. We also know that just because nuclear weapons have not been used in war for 70 years doesn’t mean they do not create causalities.

The decades of radioactive fallout associated with the Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test Site have had grievous health consequences for hundreds of thousands. It therefore seems fitting that we pledge ourselves here, in a region that has suffered for so long because of nuclear testing, to make the comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) a reality.

As parliamentarians, we can rarely dictate foreign policy. Instead we have at our disposal the tools, the position and the voice to frame the norms accepted by the people we represent and to turn those norms into action. Our ability to move non-proliferation and disarmament to the center of the national consciousness in our respective nations is our most vital asset, by all means of media as well as by our ability to communicate as parliamentarians.

In this manner the UN must be more than just a vehicle for adopting the CTBT, it must function as a place of collaboration where politicians and non-state groups can share effective strategies for furthering the cause of non-proliferation.

Furthermore, we must use our influence to ensure that treaties, related to nuclear weapons or otherwise, are prosecuted fairly and evenly regardless of the position of larger powers. The work we do is meaningless unless treaties and bans on the testing and use of nuclear weapons are applicable to all states. Specifically for furthering the nuclear test ban treaty, parliamentarians can influence those countries that have yet to ratify the CTBT. But it is not enough to encourage the ratification of this treaty as well other non-proliferation efforts, these efforts must be part of a larger movement to come to arrangements and build a trust that a nation does not need to possess nuclear weapons in order to feel secure.

Your excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The conference comes today, at a very critical time in which the world, in particular, our region is witnessing unprecedented armed conflict and turmoil subsequent to the so called " The Arab Spring" while we are all looking forward for nuclear weapons free zone in the middle east. where Jordan and our Arab neighbors have tried for years to make progress in creating this zone.

We believe that such an optimum goal would not be possible without clear and serious compliance from all parties, Specifically, Israel the sole nuclear power in the region.

We comfortably received the recent agreement with Iran in this regard, hence, we are looking forward to a similar step from Israel because we are all keen to a real peaceful situation in the region.

The nuclear-weapon-free-zone is one of the major steps towards just and inclusive peace, but a final just solution for the Palestinian issue where the Palestinians have their right to self-determination on their own state within their legitimate boarders in accordance with the UN related resolutions; represents the robust and the sustainable guarantee, for not only a nuclear-free zones, but also for peaceful and developing region in which the basic rights, fundamental freedoms and the inherent dignity are respected for all.

**Speaker: Senator Salwa Damen-Masri**

**Jordan**