Statement by

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Before
The First Committee

On the item

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

New York, 17 October 2002
Mr. President,

On behalf of the United Arab Delegation, I would like to express my appreciation for your efforts in directing this committee, and I would like to wish you success.

Mr. President,
The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in the different region of the world is a great contribution to preventing the proliferation of such weapons, and reducing the danger of a nuclear war. It is also one of the main measures to the elimination of nuclear weapons, and to a total and comprehensive disarmament.

Realizing that the establishment of such zones is a main step towards achieving the goals of nuclear disarmament in particular, and disarmament in general, The United Arab Emirates, endorses all the General Assembly resolutions regarding the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, fore mostly, nuclear weapons, in the Middle East, and we support all efforts made to fulfill it. Moreover, the United Arab Emirates had taken concrete steps toward that goal through signing the Nuclear Nonproliferation treaty.

Mr. President,
The Middle East region is ruled by an obvious imbalance in power, due to the fact that Israel, an occupying country that practices terrorism and aggression in the occupied Palestinian lands, possesses a huge arsenal of weapons, at its forefront, nuclear weapons. In addition, it refuses to join the NNPT nor to subject its Nuclear Facilities to the safeguard of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which creates a direct threat to the security of the Arab nations and weakens the credibility and universality of the NNPT and hinders the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, hence leading to the continuation of the dangerous tension in the region.
Mr. President,

In 1974 the general Assembly had called to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon- free zone in the Middle East, in 1980, the resolution concerning this issue gained more support after it was adopted unanimously. Besides that, the resolution about the Middle East which was adopted by state members in the two conferences for the revision and extension of the NNPT in 1995 and 2000, has called all countries to take practical measures aiming to achieve progress towards the establishment of a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction and nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, and means of launching it in the Middle East. It also called to the verification of these measures and the absence of taking any measures that would oppose such measures. The conference had also insisted, as expressed in its final communiqué, on the importance of Israel joining the NNPT and subjecting its nuclear facilities to the safeguards of the IAEA.

The United Arab Emirate attaches great importance to making the Middle East a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons. It also reiterates its conviction that establishing just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, requires the implementation of paragraph 14 of resolution 687, according to the 7th chapter of the Charter of the UN, by which it calls to freeing the Middle East region from weapons of mass destruction. Accordingly, we ask for:

First_ The unconditional joining of Israel, who is the only party, which did not join, the NNPT, subjecting its nuclear facilities to the safeguards of the IAEA and the elimination of all its weapons of mass destruction especially nuclear weapons in accordance with the Security Council resolution 687(1981)

Second- The states that posses nuclear weapon, in particular those who are members in the Security Council, to take a big part of the responsibility in ensuring the establishment of a zone free of
weapons of mass destruction and nuclear weapons in the Middle East as soon as possible.

Third- The adherence of all parties in the region to the implementation of NNPT, should apply to all parties in the region, without any discrimination.

Fourth- the comprehensive nuclear-weapon disarmament in the Middle East should not be an obstacle in the way of gaining knowledge and the peaceful scientific use of nuclear energy.

Thank you Mr. President.