Statement by Delegation of Indonesia on Regional Issues: The Middle East at The Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

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Geneva, 2 May 2003
Mr Chairman,

My delegation wishes to reemphasize the urgency and the importance of achieving the universality of the Treaty, particularly by the accession to the Treaty at the earliest possible date of those States possessing nuclear capabilities, and resolve to make determined efforts to achieve this goal. In this regard, Indonesia reaffirms its support for the establishment in the Middle East of a zone of free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction and the need for its speedy establishment in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions adopted by consensus as well as Security Council resolution 487 of 1991 and paragraph 14 of the Security Council resolution 687 of 1991.

We call upon all parties concerned to take urgent and practical steps toward the establishment of such a zone and, pending its establishment to call on Israel, the only country in the region that has not joined the NPT, nor declared its intention to do so, to renounce the possession of nuclear weapons, to accede to the NPT without delay, to place promptly all its nuclear facilities under IAEA Safeguards and to conduct all its nuclear related activities in conformity with the non-proliferation regime. We call that the 2000 Review Conference reaffirmed the importance of Israel's accession to the 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.

Mr Chairman,

It may be further recalled that 1995 Review and Extension Conference adopted a package consisting of three decisions and a resolution on the Middle East. The only stumbling block to its implementation is Israel’s steadfast refusal to accede to the NPT and to place its nuclear facilities under IAEA’s Safeguard system. In view of the importance of this question, and its implications for peace and security in the region and in line with the statement made by NAM on 28 April 2003, we underscore the need to establish a subsidiary body to Main Committee II at the 2005 Review Conference to consider and recommend proposals to implement the 1995 resolution.
That conference, pursuant to paragraph 7 of the 1995 Decision 1 on the Strengthening of the Review Process, should look forward as well as back and evaluate the results of the period under review, including the implementation of undertakings of States parties to the Treaty and identify the areas in which, and the means through which further progress could be made in the future.

In these endeavors, we should keep in mind that all States in the Middle East, except Israel, are States parties to the Treaty; that the General Assembly has for a number of years called for the establishment of a nuclear weapons free zone in the Middle East and the readiness of the Arab States to take practical steps to establish such a zone.

Thank you Mr Chairman.