Statement by
The Islamic Republic of Iran
before
NPT 2005 Review Conference - PrepCom III
Regional Issues - Middle East

Mr. Chairman,
I would like to start by associating with the positions already expressed by the distinguished representative of Malaysia on behalf of Non-Aligned Movement.

1. According to the Final Document of the First Special Session of the General Assembly on Disarmament in 1978 (SSC01), the establishment of NWFZs has been recognized as an important disarmament measure. Paragraph 61 of its final document stipulates that "The Process of establishing such zones in different parts of the world should be encouraged with the ultimate objective of achieving a world entirely free of nuclear weapons".

2. Since the Entry Into Force of the NPT, the establishment of NWFZs throughout the world including Latin America and Caribbean (Tlatelolco), Africa (Pelindaba), South East Asia (Bangkok), Pacific (Rarotonga) and the Central Asia in the near future have been the most important and effective measure in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Above all, NWFZs have made a fundamental contribution to the regional, as well as international peace, security, and stability, in which states in such zones can pursue sustainable development in a desirable environment.

3. Following the initiative of Iran in 1974, the proposal to establish a NWFZ in the region of the Middle East has been put on the agenda of the United Nations General Assembly since its Twenty-Ninth Session and on the agenda of other international fora, in particular at the General Conference of the IAEA and Review Process of the NPT.

4. The Resolution on the Middle East, Sponsored by the Russian Federation, the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as depositaries of the NPT, adopted on 11 May 1995 by the NPT Review and Extension Conference in New York, as an integral part of the package of deals which made the indefinite extension of the Treaty possible, constituted a new impetus to the realization of a NWFZ in the Middle East. Paragraph 4 of this resolution "calls upon all States in the Middle East that have not yet done so, without exception, to accede to the Treaty as soon as possible and to place their nuclear facilities under full-scope IAEA safeguards".

5. The 2000 Review Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons reaffirmed the importance of the Resolution on
the Middle East and recognized that the resolution remains valid until its goals and objectives are achieved.

6. In spite of the provisions of the sixth paragraph of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East which “Calls upon all States party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and in particular the nuclear-weapon States, to extend their cooperation and to exert their utmost efforts with a view to ensuring the early establishment by regional parties of a Middle East zone free of nuclear and all other weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems”, no concrete step has so far been taken to realize the objective of this resolution. This resolution is, among other related international documents, the manifestation of the legitimate demand by the states of the region.

7. We fully share the reaffirmation of the NAM countries of their support for the establishment in the Middle East of a zone free from nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction and for the speedy establishment in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions adopted by consensus as well as Security Council resolution 457 (1980) and recall 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.

8. Israel is the sole non-party to the NPT in the region of the Middle East. Its unsafeguarded nuclear facilities and programs in the region are the main obstacle to the realization of a NWZ in the Middle East. Neglecting the commitment voluntarily undertaken by this important resolution can only embolden Israel to continue to remain as a source of threat and instability in the Middle East by flouting the will of the international community and remaining outside of the fold of the NPT and full-scope safeguard regime. In this context, we believe that national reports that do not address negative implications of Israel’s nonmembership to join NPT are not as effective as they ought to be in accordance with the 1995 resolution on the Middle East.

9. Universal adherence to the NPT, especially in this region, is the only prerequisite to the establishment of a NWZ in the Middle East. Pending the realization of a NWZ in the region, we firmly believe that no country of the region should develop, produce, test or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons or permit the stationing on their territories, or territories under their control, of nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices, and they should refrain from action that runs counter to both the letter and spirit of the NPT and other international resolutions and documents relating to the establishment of a NWZ in the Middle East.

10. The Islamic Republic of Iran, being a party to all international instruments on weapons of mass destruction, namely NPT, CWC, BTWC and the 1925 Geneva Protocol and a signatory to the CTBT, has fully supported and actively sought the realization of a zone free from all weapons of mass destruction in the region of the Middle East.
11. The NPT Review PrepComs and Conferences have a significant role in realization of such zone in the Middle East. At this crucial juncture, the Third PrepCom for the NPT Review Conference in 2005 should introduce ways and means of concrete recommendations for urgent and practical steps for the implementation of the Resolution on the Middle East adopted by the NPT 1995 Review and Extension Conference.

12. In line with paragraph 34 of the Article III Chapter of the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference and as a step in promoting universality of the Treaty and the cause of non-proliferation, all States parties, including the United States, should completely prohibit the transfer or sharing of any nuclear related equipment, information, materials, facilities, resources or devices or extension of scientific and technological assistance in the nuclear field to Israel as non-parties to the Treaty, without exception. As we have already expressed in our previous statement, the US’s nuclear cooperation with Israel, as hard evidenced after the agreement reached during the US Energy Secretary’s visit to Israel in February 2000, which is in fact another aspect of violations of Article I obligations, is the other source of concern for all NPT members and specially the Middle East countries which are all members of the NPT family.

13. Given the fact that the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference requested States Parties to report through the United Nations Secretariat to the President of the 2005 NPT Review Conference on the steps that they have taken to promote the achievement of such a zone, we along with the NAM Countries believe that the 2005 Review Conference should establish a subsidiary body in Main Committee II to consider and recommend proposals on the implementation of the resolution on the Middle East.