STATEMENT BY
THE INDONESIAN DELEGATION
AT THE SECOND SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE
2010 REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE TREATY ON THE
NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

ON THE SPECIFIC ISSUE:
REGIONAL ISSUES, INCLUDING WITH RESPECT TO THE MIDDLE EAST
AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1995 MIDDLE EAST RESOLUTION

Geneva, 5 May 2008

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Mr. Chairman,

My delegation associates itself with the statement made on behalf of the members of the Non-Aligned Movement States Parties to the NPT.

Mr. Chairman,

Four years after the entry into force of the NPT, the UN General Assembly annually adopts its resolutions calling for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. It has been more than thirty years since the first resolution was adopted in 1974, a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East has not yet materialized.

Indonesia considers that the establishment of internationally recognized nuclear weapon-free zones would contribute to enhance global and regional peace and security. We also believe that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone is a positive step and important measure towards attaining the objective of nuclear disarmament. We welcome the efforts aimed at establishing new NWFZ in all regions of the world, such as created by the Treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok, Pelindaba, Semipalatinsk and Mongolia’s nuclear weapon free status, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at
among the states of the region concerned, and calls for cooperation and broad consultation for this goal.

Indonesia reaffirms its support for the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. To this end, it also reaffirms the need for the speedy establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, in accordance with the Security Council resolution 487 (1981), and the relevant General Assembly resolutions adopted by consensus. We recall that the 2000 NPT Review Conference had reaffirmed the importance of Israel's accession to the NPT, and the placement of all its nuclear facilities under the comprehensive IAEA safeguards, for achieving the goal of universal adherence to the Treaty in the Middle East.

Mr. Chairman,

Yet, there is a risk of disconnecting between such hope and the situation on the ground. The cycle of violence has continued unabated in the region. Knowing the complexities of the issue, the process of establishing nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East should be conducted in incremental manner. This will certainly require a complete end to violence, and immediate termination by Israel of all illegal activities.

Although the political prospects for a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East may seem far-fetched today, nothing in the region, particularly given its recent development and its unfolding ramifications, is beyond the realm of possibility.

In conclusion, Indonesia underscores the imperative to find a peaceful solution to any question related to nuclear non-proliferation. We believe in the strength of dialogue and consultations, instead of unilateral action.

Thank you.