Working paper submitted by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the
Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the
Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

1. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya is fully committed to the elimination of all forms
of weapons of mass destruction and, in particular, nuclear weapons, which pose a
persistent and serious threat to global security and stability. On 19 December 2003,
the country announced a voluntary initiative to renounce all programmes and
dispose of any equipment that could lead to the production of internationally
prohibited weapons, viewing such action as the best and only way to eliminate that
very real threat to mankind.

2. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya affirms that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation
of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is fundamental to efforts to end the proliferation of
nuclear weapons and, eventually, completely eliminate them when nuclear-weapon
States renounce their nuclear arsenals in accordance with article VI of the Treaty.
That can only come about through universal accession to the Treaty, full compliance
with its provisions, and placing all nuclear facilities and activities under the
Comprehensive Safeguards System of the International Atomic Energy Agency
(IAEA).

3. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya stresses that security and stability in the Middle
East will not be achieved as long as Israel possesses nuclear weapons. On
11 December 2006, the Prime Minister of Israel admitted that his country possesses
nuclear weapons. Israel is the only State in the Middle East that has neither acceded
to nor announced its intention to accede to NPT. With a view to the establishment of
a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East, the international
community and its institutions have demanded that pressure should be brought to
bear on Israel to accede to the Treaty without delay as a non-nuclear-weapon Party,
place all its nuclear facilities and activities under the IAEA Comprehensive
Safeguards System, and renounce its nuclear weapons in accordance with United
Nations Security Council resolution 487 (1981). Until such time as Israel complies
with international demands to accede to the Treaty and places its nuclear facilities
under the Comprehensive Safeguards System, States Parties to the Treaty are
obliged to fulfil their commitments under article IV of the Treaty.
4. The credibility of NPT can only be ensured by the commitment of all States Parties to full implementation of its provisions. In particular, nuclear-weapon States Parties are obliged under article I of the Treaty not in any way to assist, encourage, or induce any non-nuclear-weapon State to manufacture or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, or control over such weapons or explosive devices. That cannot happen while certain States ignore their obligations under that article and flout all the relevant international resolutions and legislation by continuing to export nuclear technology to Israel, thereby reinforcing its nuclear arsenal.

5. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya stresses that the IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards System is the proper framework for ensuring that States fulfil their commitments under NPT article III, paragraph 1, and affirms that IAEA is the only agency that is authorized to verify compliance of States Parties with the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements which they have signed with IAEA. Attempts by certain nuclear-weapon States to wilfully misinterpret that System for political purposes with a view to curtailing the inalienable right of non-nuclear-weapon Parties to acquire and use nuclear technology for peaceful purposes is a clear violation of the commitments and obligations provided for in article III, paragraph 1 of the Treaty.

6. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya affirms the inalienable right of all States Parties to NPT to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. The protection of that right, provided for in article IV, is one of the basic goals of the Treaty. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya rejects any attempt by any State Party to use the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme as a tool for political purposes, in violation of the IAEA Statute. It also affirms that developed States have a responsibility to assist developing States in benefiting from peaceful uses of atomic energy in their development programmes by facilitating the acquisition by developing States of nuclear equipment and materials and the relevant scientific and technological expertise.

7. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya calls for the IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards System to be strengthened in accordance with the 2000 NPT Review Conference Final Document, which states that the strengthening of IAEA safeguards should not adversely affect the resources available for technical assistance and cooperation and that the allocation of resources should take into account all of the Agency’s statutory functions, including that of encouraging and assisting the development and practical application of atomic energy for peaceful uses with adequate technology transfer. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya greatly appreciates both past and ongoing IAEA efforts to support States in the peaceful use of nuclear science and technology in their development programmes through technical cooperation programmes administered by the Agency, and calls for IAEA to be supported in continuing to enhance its technical cooperation programmes alongside its monitoring functions.

8. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya expresses concern over the policy, adopted in respect of other States by certain States with nuclear capacities, of imposing limits on the transfer of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, which constitutes a violation of NPT, article IV, and undermines the technical cooperation programme, the administration of which is one of the most essential functions of IAEA.

9. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya calls for guarantees of security for non-nuclear-weapon States Parties to NPT against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. It
sees complete renunciation of all nuclear weapons as the only way to guarantee such security. It calls on nuclear-weapon States Parties to provide guarantees to all other States Parties that they will not in any way use or threaten to use such weapons. It stresses that efforts must continue to conclude an unconditional and legally binding international instrument on security guarantees for non-nuclear-weapon States that will ensure that pledges made to States which have voluntarily renounced nuclear armament are honoured, thereby encouraging more States Parties to renounce any ambition to acquire nuclear weapons.

10. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya stresses the need for compliance with article VI of NPT, as affirmed in the Final Document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference, which called for an unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament.

11. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya expects the treaty review conferences and their preparatory committees to play a major role in achieving the Treaty’s central goal of preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons. That goal cannot be realized as long as there are States which seek to acquire such weapons, let alone when in the Middle East, the most volatile region in the world, Israel can flout international resolutions and agreements by declaring before the international community and the United Nations that it possesses nuclear weapons.

12. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya stresses that the 2010 NPT Review Conference must actively seek to implement the resolution on the Middle East that was adopted at the 1995 Review Conference. At that time, the Conference undertook to strengthen and universalize the Treaty and called for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East. The 2000 Review Conference affirmed that the 1995 resolution on the Middle East remains valid until the goals and objectives are achieved and recognized that it was an essential element of the basis on which the Treaty was extended in 1995. Nevertheless, Israel continues to defy the international community by failing to accede to the Treaty and refusing to place all its nuclear facilities under the IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards System. That is a source of grave concern and has a negative impact on regional and international peace and security.

13. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya recalls that over the past few years the United Nations General Assembly has repeatedly adopted by consensus a resolution calling for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East and continues to adopt the resolution on the risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East by overwhelming majorities. United Nations General Assembly resolution 63/84, which recognizes that the proliferation of nuclear weapons in the region of the Middle East would pose a serious threat to international peace and security, noted that Israel remains the only State in the Middle East that has not yet become party to the Treaty and reaffirmed the importance of placement of all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards.

14. At its 2008 annual conference, IAEA adopted a resolution on the application of IAEA safeguards in the Middle East which, in operative paragraph 4, affirmed the urgent need for all States in the Middle East to forthwith accept the application of full-scope Agency safeguards to all their nuclear activities as an important confidence-building measure among all States in the region and as a step in
enhancing peace and security in the context of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone. Unfortunately, however, a draft resolution on Israeli nuclear capabilities and the Israeli nuclear threat was blocked by certain countries that support Israel.

15. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya requests that at the current session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the international community should take practical steps towards nuclear disarmament in all regions of the world and, in particular, the Middle East. Such steps should include bringing pressure to bear on Israel to accede unconditionally to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as a non-nuclear-weapon Party and place all its nuclear installations and facilities under the IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards System.