Mr Chairman, my delegation aligns itself with the statement of the Non-Aligned Movement States Parties to the NPT with regard to the question of the Middle East and implementation of the 1995 Middle East Resolution.

Mr Chairman,

2. Malaysia wishes to reaffirm the importance of the Resolution on the Middle East adopted at the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference and is convinced that the resolution remains legitimate until its goals and objectives are achieved. Malaysia remains convinced that the establishment of a nuclear weapons free zone in the Middle East would significantly contribute towards enhancing regional peace, security and stability.

3. Failure of the international community to realize the establishment of such a zone could possibly provoke a nuclear arms race in the Middle East, as the non-nuclear-weapons States Parties to the NPT in the Middle East are exposed to the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons from Israel, being the only state not party to the NPT in the Middle East.

Mr Chairman,

4. Malaysia is greatly concerned over the acquisition of nuclear capability by Israel. The use or threat of use of nuclear weapons from Israel is real. On 11 December 2006 the former Prime Minister of Israel publicly admitted Israel's possession of nuclear weapons. We continue to hear through out the week unceasing reference expressed over non-proliferation risks and concerns of Israel's nuclear facilities remaining outside the IAEA's safeguards.

5. Despite condemnation by certain States Parties, Israel remains defiant to the calls by the international community to accede to the NPT, to renounce possession of its nuclear weapons and to place promptly all its nuclear facilities under full-scope of the IAEA safeguards in accordance with Security Council Resolution 487 (1981).

6. Israel's defiance is not surprising, as, although there have been calls for Israel to immediately accede to the NPT and place its nuclear facilities under
comprehensive IAEA safeguards, the calls are only from a number of voices. The unheard voices in this room are regrettable, as in the case of Israel, it reflects the disturbing reality of selectivity and double standards that continue to exist in the NPT. The argument of those who insist that it is the right of Israel to retain its nuclear weapons for peace and security in the Middle East, is self-defeating.

7. Israel to-date, continues to receive nuclear related materials, resources, assistance and cooperation in nuclear science and/or technological fields, above and beyond the transfer of nuclear weapons-related technologies, other nuclear explosive devices as well as strategic delivery systems. This has been and continues to be provided, either directly or indirectly to Israel despite condemnation by many NPT States Parties and civil societies.

8. Israel’s development of nuclear weapons while outside the NPT, via preferential treatment, would only cause other countries to question the logic and benefit that they would receive by adhering to their NPT commitments. Such blatant acts of selectivity and double standards constitute a gross violation of Article I of the NPT and poses serious negative implications on regional and global peace and security.

Mr Chairman

9. In this regard, Malaysia reiterates its call upon all NPT States Parties to reaffirm their commitment to implement all provisions of the Treaty in a balanced and non-discriminatory manner. The fact that many States Parties had addressed the issue of the Middle East is testimony to the crucial importance of the establishment of a nuclear weapons free zone in the Middle East for lasting peace and security in the region.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.