In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Statement by
H.E. Ambassador Ali Asghar Soltanieh Permanent Representative
of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the Second Session of the Preparatory
Committee of the 2015 NPT Review Conference
Cluster 2: Specific issue- Regional issues, including the Middle East Nuclear
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Mr. Chairman,

Nearly four decades have elapsed since the introduction of the idea of the establishment of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (NWFZ) for the very first time by Iran in 1974. The Resolutions on the establishment of NWFZ in the Middle East, which have been constantly adopted without a vote by the United Nations General Assembly since 1980, represent the significance of the realization of this noble idea in the volatile region of the Middle East.

The Islamic Republic of Iran by placing its peaceful nuclear facilities under the Safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), has shown its resolute determination to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons. As our Supreme Leader has declared in his historical speech delivered in the 16th Summit of Heads of State or Government in Tehran, 30th August 2012, “Nuclear Weapons neither ensure security, nor do they consolidate political power, rather they are a threat to both security and political power.... The Islamic republic of Iran considers the use of nuclear, chemical and similar weapons as a great and unforgivable sin. We proposed the idea of ‘Middle East free of nuclear weapons’ and we are committed to it.... I stress that the Islamic Republic has never been after nuclear weapons and that it will never give up the right of its people to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.”

Such an act underscores the undiminished support for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free-zone in the Middle East, with the ultimate objective of securing a world free from nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chairman

Careful review of the past decades reveals the fact that we are in a vicious circle since we are not dealing with root causes of the problem in the Middle East.
The realistic solution is what the Supreme Leader of Islamic Republic of Iran proposed during the opening session of 16th Summit of Non-Aligned Movement held in August. 2012 in Tehran, permit me to conclude by quoting the Statement: *We have put forth a just and entirely democratic solution. All the Palestinians both current citizens of Palestine and those who have been forced to immigrate to other countries but have preserved their Palestinian identities including Muslims, Christians and Jews should take part in a carefully supervised and confidence building referendum and choose the political system of their country and all the Palestinian who have suffered from years of exile should return to their country and take part in this referendum and then help drafting a constitution and hold election. Peace will then be established.*

**Mr. Chairman,**

Notwithstanding the global attempts for establishing a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone particularly in the Middle East, it is regretful that after decades of the adoption of the General Assembly resolution, initially proposed by Iran, on the establishment of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in the Middle East, no progress has been achieved for its realization due to the intransigent policy of the Zionist Regime.

Owing to the non-adherence of this regime to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), and more importantly, the refusal of this regime to place its unsafeguarded nuclear facilities under the IAEA verification system, the realization of such a zone as a lofty and long-sought-after aspiration of the countries in the region has yet to be materialized. The irresponsible behavior of this regime in this respect has put the establishment of such a zone in the region for near future at serious doubt.

At present, the Israeli regime is the only non-party to the NPT in the region. Despite repeated calls by the international community, demonstrated in the Resolution on the Middle East, adopted by the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference, related resolutions of the General Assembly, the IAEA and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, this regime, confident of the political and military support of those that have passionate attachment to it, has neither acceded to the NPT, nor placed its nuclear facilities under the full-scope of IAEA safeguards. In his report on the “Application of IAEA Safeguards in the Middle East”, (GOV/2012/38-GC(56)/17) dated 27 August 2012, the IAEA Director General has declared that “All States of the Middle East region except for Israel are parties to the treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and have undertaken to accept comprehensive Agency Safeguards.” It is a matter of regret that this regime which is easily and without any IAEA verification of its illegal nuclear program, supported by United States and European Union, has not even declared its intention to accede to the Treaty. Its clandestine nuclear activities seriously threaten regional peace and security and endanger the non-proliferation regime.

Unfortunately, the inaction imposed upon the Security Council over the past several decades in addressing the well-documented nuclear weapons program of the Zionist
regime, has given the audacity to this regime to explicitly acknowledge possession of nuclear weapons, in contradiction to the lofty idea of the establishment of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in the Middle East. Moreover, this regime’s clandestine development of nuclear weapons not only violate basic principles of international law, the United Nations Charter, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as well as numerous General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, but also clearly defies the demands and concerns of the overwhelming majority of the UN Member States and constantly and obstinately disregard the international community which have, time and again, called on this regime to renounce nuclear weapons and accede to the NPT.

Considering the above-mentioned reasons, the Security Council, instead of issuing resolutions against the members of the NPT, should have fulfilled its Charter-based responsibility to address such a clear and serious threat to international peace and security and taken prompt and appropriate actions accordingly. The Israeli regime is the only obstacle for the establishment of a Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zone in the Middle East. Peace and stability cannot be achieved in the Middle East while the massive nuclear arsenal of that regime continues to threaten the region and beyond.

Mr. Chairman,

Having ratified all major Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) treaties and as a State Party to the NPT, we are fully committed to our International undertakings and believe that this international instrument is the cornerstone of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Universal adherence to this treaty, particularly in the region of the Middle East, would effectively ensure the establishment of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in the region.

My delegation is of the opinion that pending the realization of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in the Middle East, no country in the region should acquire nuclear weapons or permit the stationing within its territory, under its jurisdiction or under its control anywhere, of nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices, and should refrain from actions that run counter to both the letter and spirit of the NPT and other international resolutions and documents relating to the establishment of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in the Middle East.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is of the firm belief that an agreed plan of action and timetable for universality of the NPT, especially in the Middle East should be a top priority on the agenda of all States parties to the Treaty especially the nuclear weapons States. Israeli regime has repeatedly overlooked its commitment to the humankind as well as its international obligations by postponing its adherence to the NPT and other Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) on the pretext of the establishment of a comprehensive and durable peace in the region which is a vicious circle since this regime itself is the main obstacle in the conclusion of regional peace and security. There should be an extensive pressure on the Israeli regime to eliminate its nuclear weapons, accede to the NPT and place all its nuclear facilities under IAEA
safeguards to pave the way for the long-sought goal of the establishment of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in the Middle East as well as materialization of peace and security in the world.

Mr. Chairman,
For half a century, military censors have struggled to defend Israel's worst-kept secret -- that Israel possesses atomic weapons.

Even as its nuclear history has leaked into declassified documents, articles and books, an official policy of "ambiguity" has endured: By refusing to confirm or deny that it has the bomb, and even denying testing with apartheid regime, Israel has lived up to a quiet so called understanding with the United States on such policy.

So why former Prime Minister Ehud Olmert finally spilled the beans on 11 December 2006?

In an interview on German television late Monday, the Israeli leader seemed to list Israel among the world's nuclear club, raising an outcry across the political spectrum in Israel and questions about whether the long-standing policy had been abandoned.

Israel's newspapers reported the remark Tuesday under front-page headlines, one calling it a "nuclear slip of the lip."
Israel began building a nuclear bomb in the mid-1950s, aided by a secret agreement with France to help construct and supply a plutonium nuclear reactor in the Negev Desert.

Since 1969, the United States has accepted Israel's status as a nuclear power and not pressed it to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which subjects its adherents to inspections and sanctions aimed at stopping the spread of weapons. Therefore Mr. Olmert had blown up the secret US–Israeli joint Policy of nuclear hypocrisy implemented during decades in order to draw some Arab countries to negotiating table for imposed peace agreements.

Intelligence analysts and independent experts have long known that the country has 100 to 200 sophisticated nuclear weapons, making it the region's sole nuclear power.
But for at least a day, the lid of prepublication censorship imposed on Israeli journalists and academics eased a bit. All are aware of the fact that Olmert made a mockery of the military censor, who threatens the media with trials and fines for merely hinting at what he announced.

After avalanche of condemnation of Member States to the IAEA against Zionist regime of Israel, its Ambassador and representative to the IAEA rejected the declaration of his prime minister. During the Board of Governors of the IAEA, I requested the Director General to send a fact finding mission for clarification of the contradictory official statements. Later during the General Conference, I informed that if the reason on non-act by the IAEA is financial constraints, my Government is prepared to bear the cost of the IAEA inspection and verification in Israel in order to show the factual situation to the international community. No action is so far made due to defiant by Israeli regime and prevention by its western allies. This was another example of showing the root cause of lack of trust and insecurity for countries in the Middle East vis-a-vis Israeli Regime. Concerning the above violation and challenges, the silence of western contries and secret nuclear cooperation specifically by the US, EU and Canada is shameful record in the history of the NPT.

Mr. Chairman,

Permit me to deal with another threat to the peace and security of Middle East and world at large;

The taboo of attack against nuclear facilities was broken by Israeli regime attacking French made research reactor in Iraq in 1981; The lead to international condemnation and the IAEA General Conference resolution in 1982, suspending this regime from rights and privileges for a decade, in spite of the threat of withdrawal on membership by the United States if such resolution be adopted. After the harsh statement made by the US delegation in the General Conference in 1982, threatening withdrawal of the US from Agency’s membership if the draft resolution condemning Israel is pursued and adopted, I, on behalf of my Government, declared that if the US withdraw, Iran would be ready to compensate and fill the financial gap (about 25%) in the regular budget. Needless to say that the US left the General Conference as a protest after the adoption, but it came back. It was then proved that the threat was a bluff!

However due to the lack serious measures including serious punishment of violator, Saddam regime with full support of US and couple of other western countries, attacked several times Bushehr Nuclear power.

In 1990 on behalf of my Government, I proposed a draft resolution which was adopted by the General Conference of the IAEA, resolution 533. According to this resolution any attach or threat of attack against nuclear installations, during operation or construction, constitutes violation of the United Nations Constitution, IAEA Statute and international laws, and the UN Security Council has to promptly act upon.
Israelei regime claimed that has attack Syrian site Al-zur since it was sure it was the site for construction of research reactor. Appart from the fact that any attack against any sovereign state is clear violation of UN Charter, but based on its claimed, affirmed by US and EU, Israeli regime has violated the UN Charter and the IAEA Statutes and international laws in accordance with resolution 533, thus has to face immediate actions by UN Security Council.

Is it not shameful that some western countries, by only 17 votes, out of over 150 Member States, refer the Syrian case to the UN Security Council, rather than referring the case of violation by Israeli regime, a non-party to NPT, attacking Syria a Member States and Party to the NPT. I leave the judgement to peace loving people of the world.

Mr. Chairman,

Focusing on the NPT past decisions and future required action, permit me to say that the unilateral decision of the United States to postpone the Conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of Nuclear Weapons and all other Weapons of Mass Destruction, planned to be held in 2012, in order to protect Israel from international condemnation, is disregard of the unanimous decision made by the NPT 2010 Review Conference. Certainly such act undermines the credibility of the NPT and the consensual decisions of the NPT review conferences. The United States has always supported Israeli regime at any price, creating hate and mistrust of the people in the Middle East and its continuous isolation worldwide. In this Conference US delegate declared the US support for Middle East Free from Nuclear Weapons. Actions and words of the United States are not consistent. Its policies prove that there is no genuine political will on a Middle East zone free from nuclear weapons.

By next Preparatory Committee, all Parties have to decide future actions before is too late, perhaps to reconsider the package decision of 1995 that is indefinite extension for the establishment of Middle East Nuclear Weapon Free Zone.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.