Statement

by

H.E. Dr. Nawaf Salam
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to the United Nations

at Main Committee II
of the
2010 Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the
Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

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Check Against Delivery

Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations
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in its efforts to conduct its safeguards and verification in an effective, scrupulous manner. In this connection, we have to renew our support to the IAEA safeguards conference and hence worldwide coverage of the IAEA full scope safeguards conference, hopefully the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East implementation of resolutions taken during the previous review.

I. We need to bring the NPT to the state of universality and ensure the full implementation by a genuine stepping up of our efforts on several parallel tracks.

2. We must achieve universality of the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement before the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East.

Therefore, we need to harness this review conference in order to get off the ground a dead letter unless it is taken seriously.

The overall result does not necessarily match our expectations. The Treaty has failed in fulfilling its main objective.

Lebanon recognizes that the NPT has since its inception played a pivotal role in the Middle East. I have just delivered on behalf of the Arab Group, delivered by Egypt on behalf of the Non-aligned movement and of course with the conclusion of the historic decision will bring our proceedings to a successful outcome.

I am confident that you, as one of the experienced members of this committee, will fully appreciate Lebanon's position, as we have fully appreciated Lebanon's contribution.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.
impartial, fair and confidential manner, in keeping with the highest scientific standards. IAEA should remain the sole international competent authority entrusted with this mission. Given their wide ranging repercussions, we should undertake to avoid politicization of safeguard and verification issues.

Moreover, while recognizing the importance of the Additional Protocol, we have to emphasize that it is a voluntary, confidence-building instrument and not a legally binding statutory one. Furthermore, we have to acknowledge that the failure to universalize the comprehensive safeguards agreements, especially in the Middle East, frustrates to a great extent the calls for the strengthening of safeguards and the ratification of the Additional Protocol.

3. We have to stress the importance of Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone treaties and their Additional Protocols in advancing the cause of non-proliferation regionally and internationally. It is distressing that despite the 1945 Resolution on the Middle East, a Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone in the Middle East is still a remote objective, due to total disregard of Israel and absence of serious efforts on part of the international community.

4. We ought to encourage a paradigm shift in the way States view their own national security and devise their strategic thinking. The most effective barrage against nuclear proliferation remains the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the reckoning with their irrelevance for fostering the security of states in the world of today. Pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, efforts to conclude a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument on security assurances to non-nuclear weapon states should be pursued as a matter of priority.

5. Though of utmost importance, the non proliferation concerns and endeavors should not be translated in a way to hamper the international
nuclear cooperation, especially with non nuclear states members of the treaty, and to erode the inalienable right of all parties to the Treaty to develop, research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination.

6. The nuclear-weapon states party to the treaty should fully adhere to the terms of the Articles 1 and 3 of the Treaty.

Lebanon would appreciate to have these principles and proposals for moving forward on the issue of non proliferation duly reflected in the outcome document of the Conference.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.