



THE PERMANENT MISSION OF
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TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**STATEMENT
BY
THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**AT THE
2005 NPT REVIEW CONFERENCE
MAIN COMMITTEE II
SUBSIDIARY BODY**

**UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK
20 MAY 2005**

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Chairperson,

The problems faced on the issues surrounding the Middle East have not been resolved since we last met. In addition, the overall situation concerning the non-States parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the Treaty's universality remain extremely important issues for us to address. This has been exacerbated by the actions undertaken by States that still pursue to the nuclear weapons option and who continue to refuse to join the Treaty as non-nuclear-weapon States.

Chairperson,

The Resolution on the Middle East adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference recalled that "the proliferation of nuclear and all other weapons of mass destruction constituted a threat to international peace and security". The South African delegation remains concerned over the continued existence of weapons of mass destruction programmes, and in particular the existence of unsafeguarded nuclear facilities in this sensitive region. We would, today, again reiterate our call upon Israel to accede to the NPT and to place, without delay, those nuclear facilities under IAEA full-scope safeguards, as an integral step to reducing the threat posed by weapons of mass destruction, and in particular nuclear weapons, in the region.

In this context, we also call on all States in this region to exert their utmost efforts with a view to ensuring the early establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of nuclear weapons, as well as other weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems.

South Africa supports the pursuit of a comprehensive solution to the difficulties and dangers facing the Middle East region. Our own experience has shown that the possession of nuclear weapons provides only an illusion of security.

Chairperson,

South Africa fully associates itself with the positions on the Middle East taken by the Non-Aligned Movement and underlines the importance of the language contained in the Working Paper presented by the members of the NAM, including those circulated as NPT/CONF.2005/WP.8 and WP.19.

NPT State parties need to adequately address this important issue in the outcome of this Review Conference.

I thank you.