

Statement on Middle East Nuclear Weapon Proliferation and Deployment

1. The first PrepCom meeting, April 8 to 19, 2002, in preparation for the 2005 Conference of the parties to the nuclear weapon non-proliferation treaty (NPT) is convened at a time of intensive tension, acute conflicts and threats with conventional and non-conventional weapons. Therefore the review of the implementation of disarmament measures endorsed by former NPT conferences at this meeting assumes special importance.

Among them are 13 practical steps “ for the systematic and progressive efforts to implement article VI of the Treaty” leading to complete nuclear disarmament, which were approved by the last 2000 NPT Conference together with 16 steps to prevent nuclear weapons proliferation in various regions. Already nuclear weapons states NWS commit themselves at that conference to “ an unequivocal undertaking.....to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals.”

2. Contrary to this “unequivocal undertaking”, the entry into force of the treaty on Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban has been totally blocked as a result of the US Senate refusal to ratify the Treaty.

Negotiations for a non-discriminatory and effective verifiable Treaty to ban fissile material for nuclear weapons did not commence. US plans are being prepared to produce low-yield earth-penetrating nukes to burrow very deep into earth and destroy hidden military facilities, a step which will herald a new era of actual nuclear weapon use in military operations.

Even US declaration on its intention to reduce its strategic nuclear missiles to 2200 or 1700 weapons can be easily reversed since nukes will be kept in stores, thus they can be linked once more to their vehicles .

The most alarming step is US declaration to withdraw from ABM Treaty, a step which will widely open the doors for the deployment of missile defense systems and space weapons leading to intensive waves of arms race, globally and regionally.

The 13 steps leading to complete nuclear disarmament should be implement.

3. The document of the last NPT Conference “ emphasizes that nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation are mutually reinforcing”, particularly in regions fraught with tension and conflicts, the Middle East, South Asia and North East Asia.

In the Middle East, Israel has acquired nuclear weapon arsenal, a fact which may prompt other states of the region to seek weapons of mass destruction WMD in order to counter the deadly threats of Israeli weapons.

To put an end to this dangerous process, the 1995 NPT Conference adopted a decision, sponsored by US, UK and Russia, calling for “ the establishment of an effectively verifiable Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction, nuclear , chemical and biological, and their delivery vehicles”. Support for this project was confirmed by the last 2000 NPT Conference which also urged Israel to accede to NPT and place its nuclear activities under the International Atomic Energy Agency IAEA Safeguards.

Instead of implementing what had been approved by former NPT Conferences to prevent nuclear weapon proliferation, US declared and implemented its own Counter

Proliferation policy of using force combined with effective nuclear deterrence against any country hostile to its policy and my try to acquire WMD and their missiles. Consequently, Middle East countries are facing two grave threats: Israeli nuclear threats and US military threats, whereas Israeli nuclear weapons are left intact. The pending US wars against Iraq and Iran testify to this fact.

To add fuel to these grave and deadly threats, theater Missile Defense systems jointly produced by US and Israel had been deployed in the region to further strengthen their nuclear deterrence by killing the missiles of other states

The implementation of the decision on the Middle East will put an end to all these dangers. It will prevent all risks arising from the proliferation and deployment of all WMD together with their delivery vehicles, including missiles defensive and offensive.

4. The parties to NPT gathering at April PrepCom are urged to further their efforts for the implementation of all measures and resolutions leading to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and their total eliminations including the Middle East decision. All were already approved by them including US and the other NWSs. But the actual policies of certain NWSs, officially acknowledged or de facto, will lead to the collapse of the entire system of non-proliferation, if their policies are left unabated. Every effort should be made to prevent this eventuality.

Israel is urged to immediately place its nuclear installations and activities under LAEA safeguards and adhere to NPT in compliance to the principle of universality of NPT, and NWSs must observe their unequivocal undertaking to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals.

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Arab Coordination Center of NGOs.
Arab Lawyers Union.
NGOs Forum for Women Development.
Union of Democratic Youth.