

**Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review
Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the
Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

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**Steps taken during the past year to promote the
achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle
East and the realization of the goals and objectives of the
1995 resolutions on the Middle East**

Report submitted by Egypt

General

Pursuant to the report submitted by Egypt to the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (document NPT/CONF.2005/PC.II/9), Egypt has the honor to submit this follow-up report, which sets forth the steps Egypt has taken during the past year to promote the realization of the goals and objectives of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East.

I. Introduction

Since the First Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation on Nuclear Weapons, Egypt has worked continuously to realize the goals and objectives of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East.

In this context, the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free-zone in the Middle East has remained an item of high priority on Egypt's diplomatic agenda, after nearly 30 years of efforts to rid the Middle East of nuclear weapons and of other weapons of mass destruction.

II. Egyptian efforts at the international level

As in past years, Egypt submitted a resolution (58/34) to the General Assembly of the United Nations at its fifty-eighth session on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East. The resolution, which was adopted without a vote, "urges all parties directly concerned to consider seriously taking the practical and urgent steps required for the implementation of the proposal to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East in



accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and, as a means of promoting this objective invites the countries concerned to adhere to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons". The resolution furthermore "invites the nuclear-weapons States and all other States to render their assistance in the establishment of the zone..."

Egypt, acting on behalf of the States of Members of the United Nations that are Members of the League of Arab States, also submitted a resolution (58/C8) entitled "The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East", which was adopted by an overwhelming majority of States Members. The resolution "reaffirms the importance of Israel's accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and placement of all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards, in realizing the goal of universal adherence to the Treaty in the Middle East". The resolution calls upon Israel "to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons without further delay and not to develop, produce, test or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons and to renounce possession of nuclear weapons, and to place all its unsafeguarded nuclear facilities under full-scope International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards as an important confidence-building measure among all States of the region and as a step towards enhancing peace and security".

Upon Egypt's initiative, the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its forty-sixth session once again adopted by consensus, a resolution (GC(47).RES/13) entitled "Application of IAEA Safeguards in the Middle East". The resolution "affirms the urgent need for all States in the Middle East to forthwith accept the application of full-scope Agency safeguards to all their nuclear activities as an important confidence-building measure among all States in the region and as a step in enhancing peace and security in the context of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone (NWFZ)". The resolution also "calls upon all parties directly concerned to consider seriously taking the practical and appropriate steps required for the implementation of the proposal to establish a mutually and effectively verifiable NWFZ in the region..." and upon all States "especially those with a special responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, to render all assistance to the Director-General by facilitating the implementation of this resolution".

The support of the international community for the three aforementioned resolutions is evidence of the international community's continuing concern over the risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East and the urgency surrounding this issue. Egypt regrets, however, that little has been done to translate this sense of urgency into concrete measures.

III. Egyptian efforts at the regional level

At the regional level, Egypt continued to play an active role within the framework of the League of Arab States on issues relating to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Thus, it has participated in the adoption of several resolutions on subjects that fall within the scope of the Treaty.

Egypt has also played a prominent role in the work of the technical committee charged with formulating a draft treaty on the establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of weapon of mass destruction. Two meetings of the Committee were held in Cairo in June 2003 and January 2004.

Egypt also reported in its submission to the Second Session of Preparatory Committee in 2003