

Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Steps 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 resolution on the Middle East

Report submitted by Australia

1. Australia fully supports the establishment of an effectively verifiable Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. Australia has joined the consensus every year at the United Nations General Assembly in support of the resolution calling for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East freely arrived at among States of the region.
2. Australia supports universality of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and consistently calls upon all States that have not joined the NPT to accede to it as non-nuclear-weapon States.
3. The Additional Protocol on strengthened IAEA safeguards offers Middle East States an important confidence-building opportunity. Australia welcomes the signing by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya of an Additional Protocol in March 2004 and its ratification in August 2006. Australia will continue to urge conclusion by Middle East States of the Additional Protocol without delay or precondition. It is in the interests of all regional countries if the strengthened safeguards system can prevent the emergence of more nuclear-capable States.
4. Australia welcomed adoption by the Security Council of resolutions 1696 (2006), 1737 (2006) and 1747 (2007) which supported and ultimately made mandatory the IAEA Board's calls for Iran to implement a suspension on enrichment-related activities. Australia endorses the action taken by the IAEA Board of Governors on Iran's nuclear programme. This includes the September 2005 IAEA Board resolution finding that Iran's many failures and breaches of its obligations to comply with its NPT safeguards agreement constitute non-compliance in the context of article XII.C of the Agency's statute. Australia also strongly supported the February 2006 IAEA Board resolution requesting the Director General of the IAEA to report to the Security Council the steps required of Iran by the IAEA Board. Australia has joined with the international community in urging Iran to resolve the continuing international concerns about its nuclear programme. Iran must urgently



cooperate fully with the IAEA to resolve outstanding questions about its nuclear programme.

5. While countries of the Middle East would need to take the initiative in developing a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, membership of and adherence to existing treaties and instruments would be a step towards this aim. Australia contributes to the goal of such a zone through its efforts to achieve universal membership of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the Biological Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention, and our active support for the International Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation, adopted in The Hague.

6. Australia is active in efforts to achieve universal application of nuclear safeguards measures — in the Middle East and elsewhere.

7. Australia welcomes ongoing efforts by the international community, including the United States, the Quartet (United States, Russian Federation, the European Union and the United Nations), the Arab League and regional countries, such as Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Jordan, to re-energize the Middle East peace process. We call on the Palestinian National Unity Government to respect the Quartet principles. Australia continues to support a two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict which recognizes Israel's right to exist in peace and meets the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people.