

*Statement*  
*By*  
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*Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations and Other International Organization in Vienna*  
*before the second Session of the Preparatory Committee of 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons*  
*30 April, 2008*

*Nuclear Weapons Free Zone in the Middle East Region*

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to avail myself of the opportunity to express the position of my delegation towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

Three decades have elapsed since the introduction of this idea for the very first time by Iran in 1974. The Resolutions on the establishment of NWFZ in the Middle East, which have been constantly adopted without a vote by the UNGA since 1980, represent the significance of the realization of this noble idea in the vital region of the Middle East. The Security Council has also passed resolutions including 487 (1981) and 687 (1991).

Article VII of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which was also referred to by the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference, deals with 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, as well as reaffirms the right of any group of states to conclude regional treaties in order to assure absence of nuclear weapons in their respective territories. The very resolution adopted by the 1995 NPT Review Conference was one of the conditions for indefinite extension of the NPT. In addition to giving each other mutual guarantees against nuclear attack, countries which form a NWFZ hope to free themselves from the threats of nuclear-weapons states

by receiving legally binding assurances through their adherences to NWFZ protocols.

***Israeli clandestine nuclear program, the main obstacle to NWFZ in the region***

Mr. Chairman,

Iran is of the view that stability cannot be achieved in the region where massive imbalances in military capabilities are maintained particularly through the possession of nuclear weapons which allow only non-party to the NPT to threaten its neighbors and the region. In this regard, we express our serious concern over the statement in which the Prime Minister of the Zionist Regime in an interview with a German television on 12 December 2006, in absolute contravention with the idea of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East explicitly acknowledged possession of nuclear weapons. That acknowledgment was condemned by the Non-Aligned Movement in the statement issued on 5 February 2007. Moreover, This Regime's clandestine development and possession of nuclear weapons not only violate basic principles of international law, United Nations Charter, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as well as numerous General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, but also clearly defy the demands and concerns of the overwhelming majority of the UN member states and constantly and obstinately disregard the international community which have, time and again, called on this regime to renounce nuclear weapons and accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Hence, the Zionist Regime is the only obstacle for the establishment of a nuclear-weapons-free zone in the Middle East. The international call for peace and security in this strategic region has had no effect since this Regime has been actively exploring the nuclear option since its earliest days. We stress that necessary steps should be taken in different international fora for the establishment of this zone. We also call for the total and complete prohibition of the transfer of all nuclear-related equipment, information, material and facilities, resources or devices and the extension of assistance in the nuclear related scientific or technological fields to the Zionist Regime.

The Zionist Regime has an extensive nuclear stockpile with long-range ballistic missiles that can hit any target in the Middle East and beyond. This Regime has intransigently refused to sign the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and declined to implement the IAEA's Safeguard

agreements and relevant resolutions despite international demands. This will have potentially serious implication on the regional and international security as well as the reliability of the global non-proliferation regime.

The Islamic Republic of Iran associates itself with the Statement of the NAM Coordinating Bureau dated 5 February 2007 and regrets that no progress has been achieved with regard to the Zionist Regime's accession to the Treaty, extension of full-scope safeguards to all its nuclear facilities or establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free Zone in the Middle East, all of which are objectives and priorities that were stressed in both Review Conferences of 1995 and 2000. In conformity with the provisions of the NPT, all States Parties shall be committed to prohibit the transfer of all nuclear related equipment, information, material, facilities, resources or devices and the extension of know-how or any kind of assistance in the nuclear, scientific or technological fields to the Zionist Regime as long as it remains a non-party to the Treaty and has not placed all its nuclear facilities under full-scope IAEA safeguards.

In this context, we regret that some countries including Canada in their reports on Middle East NWFZ to this session not only turned a blind eye to the threat of Israeli nuclear weapons but also made a dangerous prescription. Canada proposed for a separation of Israeli military and civilian nuclear activities of that regime which could mean implicit recognition of Israeli nuclear weapons. We strongly reject such irresponsible suggestion. The countries in the region cannot accept anything less than the total and unconditional elimination of Israeli nuclear weapons and its **facilities and its acceding to the NPT.**

Mr. Chairman,

The clandestine and undeclared nuclear activities of the Zionist Regime, its non-compliance to numerous international resolutions, by the IAEA in particular, , non-adherence to the non-proliferation and disarmament treaties and the IAEA full scope Safeguards, on one hand and the discriminatory approach to other countries in the region, on the other hand, could not be sustained. The international community, including the Review Conference has to deal with the serious and continuing threat by the Zionist Regime's nuclear weapons to the peace and security of the region and the world, in an urgent manner. The very recently a new agreement was signed by the

director of the Israeli Atomic Energy Commission, and the chairman of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, enabling Zionist Regime to access most of the latest nuclear data and technology available in the U.S. In the past the US has no shy of supporting that regime's nuclear weapon and the disclosed "top secret document dated 23 August 1974" clearly shows the role of the US in equipping Zionist Regime with nuclear weapons. This new agreement in addition to the 2000 nuclear cooperation agreement will add to the Israeli nuclear capability and is a matter of great concern to the peoples of the region. **Regrettably the trend of support and assistance of certain western countries to Israeli nuclear weapon program has reached such a horrendous and indeed ridiculous state that the Israeli regime, a non-party to the NPT, whose nuclear arsenal coupled with its expansionist, repressive and state-terror policies and behavior is repeatedly recognized as the single most serious threat to the regional and international peace and security, finds the audacity to cry wolf about peaceful nuclear program of the NPT States parties. The aggressive nature of that regime and the unequivocal support of the United States to it has let this regime believe that the law of jungle rules the world.**

**Unfortunately, in the current session we witnessed that the attack of a non-party to the NPT on Syria a State Party to the Treaty not only was not condemned by some western countries but also they turned their criticism to a non-nuclear weapon state who by joining the NPT has legally forgone nuclear option. The positions of this group of countries would send a wrong message that it is OK for some to have nuclear weapons and stay outside of the NPT, while others who are States parties to the Treaty should be targeted.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

I have to recall that Israeli regime has the darkest record of violation of international laws; by breaking the taboo of armed attack against nuclear installation in 80s. Except few western countries specifically US and France, the international community, strongly condemned this horrible aggressive action through resolutions of the United Nations and the IAEA. Later in 1990, the IAEA General Conference considered that such attacks has serious radiological consequences for the region and the world at large, and shall put world peaceful nuclear development at jeopardy. Therefore the Conference passed resolution 533, where it considered any threat or attack against nuclear installations during construction or operation constitutes violations of the United Nations Charter, the Statute of the IAEA and the

international laws, thus requires immediate action of the United Nations Security Council.

The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the Review Conference has to take these concerns which are directly related to national, regional and international security into its serious considerations and take decisive measure. As a firm demand of international community it is expected that this Committee calls upon all parties to take collective urgent and practical steps towards the establishment of NWFZ in the Middle East and, pending its establishment, calls on the Zionist Regime, the non-party in the region, to renounce possession of nuclear weapons, to accede promptly to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as a non-nuclear weapon party, and to immediately place all its nuclear facilities under IAEA full-scope safeguards. During the IAEA's General Conference in 2007 and the following Board of Governors, the Israeli representative rejected the statement of its prime minister regarding the possession of nuclear weapons. My delegation then proposed, the Director General of the IAEA, being the sole international technical organization in this area, to send a team of inspectors, to verify which assertion is true and to prepare a thorough report on the nuclear weapon capabilities of the Zionist Regime and keep the international community informed of any development in this respect. As a concrete feasible action I do propose it to the NPT State Parties too.

Thank You.

