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

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**Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the
Middle East**

Working paper submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran

1. The establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone, as reaffirmed at the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, constitutes an important disarmament measure. The establishment of such zones enhances regional and global peace and security, and reinforces the non-proliferation regime as well. The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in Latin America, the South Pacific, Africa, South-East Asia and Central Asia constitutes an effective initiative towards the creation of a world entirely free from nuclear weapons.
2. The establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East has been the long-standing goal of the people of the region. The Islamic Republic of Iran first initiated the idea of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone as an important disarmament measure in the region of the Middle East in 1974, followed by the resolution of the General Assembly. The establishment of such a zone in the Middle East will strengthen the security and stability of the region.
3. The resolution on the Middle East, as reaffirmed in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, is an essential element of the package of agreements arising out of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty and a basis on which the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was indefinitely extended without a vote in 1995.
4. The 2000 Review Conference called upon all States in the Middle East, without exception, to accede to the Treaty as soon as possible and to place their nuclear facilities under the full scope of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards. The Conference also emphasized the importance of the Zionist regime's accession to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and placement of all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive IAEA safeguards.



Israeli nuclear weapons programme: the main obstacle to a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region

5. However, despite repeated calls by the international community, as demonstrated in the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and related resolutions of the General Assembly, as well as those of IAEA and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Zionist regime has neither acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons nor placed its unwarranted nuclear facilities under the full scope of IAEA safeguards. It has not even declared its intention to accede to the Treaty. It should be underlined that this regime is the only non-party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in the Middle East region. That regime's nuclear weapons activities, with the support of the United States of America, seriously threaten both regional and international peace and security, and endanger the non-proliferation regime.

6. The brutal attacks by the Israeli regime on its neighbours based on absurd excuses, the killing of civilians, including women and children in Gaza, with prohibited and devastating weapons, and the defying of any call by the international community to stop the shedding of the blood of innocent people, all show just how serious is the threat of such an aggressive regime. Needless to say how much endangerment nuclear weapon in the hands of such a regime could create for regional as well as international peace and security.

7. The 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty, recalling the obligation of all States parties under articles I, II and III of the Treaty, called upon all States parties not to cooperate with or give assistance in the nuclear or nuclear-related field to States not parties to the Treaty in such a manner as to assist them in manufacturing nuclear weapons or any other nuclear explosive devices. Unfortunately, the policy of inaction imposed upon the Security Council over the past several decades in respect of addressing the well-documented nuclear weapons programme implemented by the Zionist regime has given that regime the audacity to explicitly acknowledge possession of nuclear weapons. That acknowledgment was condemned by the Non-Aligned Movement in a statement issued on 5 February 2007. The Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty and the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty should also condemn this regime for its defiance of international appeals and urge it to stop immediately its nuclear weapons activities. Moreover, the Council should fulfil its Charter of the United Nations-based responsibility to address such a clear and serious threat to international peace and security and take prompt and appropriate action accordingly.

8. An agreed plan of action for achieving the universality of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, especially in the Middle East, should be in the agenda of all States parties to the Treaty, in particular nuclear-weapon States. There should be greater pressure put on the Zionist regime to accede to the Treaty promptly and without conditions, and to place all its facilities under the full scope IAEA safeguards without delay. Unconditional adherence by that regime to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the conclusion of a full-scope safeguard agreement with IAEA would undoubtedly lead to the early realization of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

9. The Islamic Republic of Iran is of the opinion that, pending the realization of the nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region, no country of the region must acquire nuclear weapons or permit the stationing of nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices on its territory or under its jurisdiction or control, and should refrain from actions that run counter to both the letter and the spirit of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and other international resolutions and documents relating to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

10. The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons have a significant role to play in the realization of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. The Review Conference of 2010 should establish a subsidiary body under Main Committee II to consider this issue and make concrete recommendations on urgent and practical steps for the implementation of the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty and contained in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty. The Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty should also make recommendations on measures to force the Zionist regime to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and place its unwarranted nuclear facilities under the full scope of IAEA safeguards so as to pave the way for the establishment of the nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East region.

11. Owing to the importance of the Middle East region and in order to strengthen the realization of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, as well as the agreements contained in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty and article VII of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Islamic Republic of Iran is of the view that all States parties to the Treaty, particularly the nuclear-weapon States, as sponsors of the 1995 Middle East resolution, should continue to report through the United Nations Secretariat to the President of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty.

12. The upcoming Review Conference should also establish a standing committee to monitor the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East as well as the agreements of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty in this regard and to report to the States parties to the Treaty.
