



*Statement of the League of Arab States before the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Preparatory Committee for the Review Conference of the  
Parties to the Treaty of the Non-proliferation of Nuclear  
Weapons - 2010*

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Mr. Chairman,

1. On behalf of the League of Arab States, I wish to join previous speakers in congratulating you on your election as Chairman of the Third Preparatory Committee, and to express all confidence in your Leadership of this important meeting.
2. We have listened over the last two days to the General Debate in which most statements expressed two main ideas: the first is that the NPT is facing serious challenges that threaten its effectiveness and credibility. The second is that most statements have welcomed the vision expressed by the new US Administration regarding the future of Nuclear Weapons in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and its call for a world free of nuclear weapons to be achieved through practical and gradual steps.
3. The preliminary steps declared to achieve this vision, namely; the reduction of the role of Nuclear Weapons in the National Security Strategies, negotiations with the Russian Federation on strategic weapons reductions, its commitment to pursue the ratification of the CTBT, starting negotiations on a FMCT, and, finally, to cooperate with the international community to strengthen the NPT are all, no doubt, positive steps worth welcoming by all parties. The League of Arab States issued two weeks ago a Statement in which it welcomed this new vision and hoped that this vision shall be translated into practical steps during the 2010 Review Conference, and to be also reflected in the approach to proliferation issues in the Middle East in a manner that bypasses errors of the past and moves towards the implementation of the Middle East Resolution adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference.
4. These ideas by the US administrations are welcomed as an expression of unprecedented political will by the US or any other Nuclear Weapon State. Yet we would like to clarify the following points:
  - The objective of a world free of nuclear weapons can not be achieved unless the universality of the NPT is first realized. There is an urgent need to deal with dilemma caused by the refusal of a small number of states to join the treaty while maintaining military nuclear programs and nuclear installations that are not subject to any international safeguards and monitoring.
  - The concrete steps proposed by the US, as important as they are, are only first steps. There are numerous additional steps to be taken if we are serious about achieving these objectives. Most of the steps proposed by the US are steps that the Nuclear States have already committed to pursue in the final document of the 2000 Review Conference, but were later ignored.
  - The objective of strengthening the NPT requires the realization of its Universality before attempting to pursue any additional commitments on the Parties. It is also imperative to implement the resolutions of the previous Review conferences, especially the 1995 and 2000 conferences, especially the "Middle East Resolution", which was an essential element of the bargain to

indefinitely extend the NPT. The League of Arab States stresses that the inability to achieve the Universality of the treaty and to implement the "Middle East Resolution" will represent an insurmountable obstacle in front of many state parties to accept any additional commitments or new restrictions on their rights.

- Balance should be restored to the debate on the three central pillars of the Treaty. Progress should be achieved on both Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, while preserving the rights of the state parties to obtain nuclear technology for peaceful uses, and not to deny them these rights under any pretext.
- The Arab States considers the implementation of the "Middle East Resolution" a non-negotiable overriding priority and constitutes an essential cornerstone to peace and security in the Middle East. The Arab States note that many State Parties have repeatedly confirmed their support of the M.E. Resolution and to the establishment of a NWFZ in the M.E. Yet this support, after more than fourteen years, remains rhetorical and vague without any practical mechanism for implementation. Israel is still adamant in refusing to accede to the treaty or subject its nuclear installations to international safeguards.
- Although many countries have emphasized the importance of implementing the resolution, we are surprised that some states try to provide the rationale and the excuses for Israel not to join the NPT under the pretext of Israel's security, claiming that the Middle East should not be declared an area free from Nuclear Weapons until peace is first attained in the region and the Arab-Israeli conflict is resolved. This is a logic that propagates the idea that nuclear arms provide security to whoever possesses it. This dangerous logic is unacceptable because if we accept that NWs protects Israel's security, then we need to accept that the possession of the same weapons by other countries shall realize their security as well.
- We wish to underline that all Arab countries have adhered to the NPT without exception. This adherence came during the Arab - Israeli conflict, and they, the Arab countries, have not used the conflict as a pretext to avoid joining the Treaty as Israel did.
- It is time to amend the international discourse regarding non-proliferation and disarmament in the Middle East in a manner that the international community should shoulder its responsibilities in this field. In this connection, we reiterate that the establishment of a nuclear weapons free zone in the M.E. is an essential confidence building measure and a means of realizing regional security and preventing an unnecessary arms race.

*Mr. Chairman,*

The Arab League has articulated clear positions with respect to nuclear proliferation and the means of addressing the issue in the Middle East. The League reiterated in many occasions that it is against the possession of nuclear arms by any country in the region and that the appropriate way to address the issue should be a comprehensive

regional approach, contrary to the state-by-state approach currently used with the countries of the region. This state-by-state approach is selective and discriminatory, thus aggravating the distrust in the possibility of applying common standards to all the in the region.

The Arab Summit, in its recent meeting in Doha, issued a resolution emphasizing that the success of the 2010 Review Conference requires the implementation of the 1995 Middle East Resolution and agreement on adopting practical and well-defined steps towards establishing a Nuclear Weapons free Zone in the Middle East. The Summit requested the League of Arab States to review available alternatives and options in light of the outcomes of the 2010 Review Conference and the response of the international community to the Arab demand of freeing the Middle East of nuclear weapons.

We, in the Arab League, are convinced that continuous dialogue among all parties provides the optimal way to move positively forward. We are confident that these issues shall receive their due attention in the discussions of this session. The Member States of the League of Arab States have introduced two working papers to this Session that include specific ideas and proposals which they hope will be submitted for adoption to the 2010 Review Conference.

Finally, allow me to express my gratitude for allowing regional organizations to address this important meeting, since your decisions have grave implications on both regional and international security.

Thank You Mr. Chairman.