

STATEMENT OF EGYPT

Delivered by H.E. Ambassador/ Maged Abdel Aziz

SPECIFIC ISSUE: REGIONAL ISSUES INCLUDING THE 1995 RESOLUTION ON THE MIDDLE EAST

Mr. Chairman,

The Implementation of the Middle East Resolution remains a top priority for the success of the current review cycle, and one of the key areas where significant practical progress has to be achieved in the 2010 Review Conference outcome. While strengthening the three main pillars of the NPT remains central to reviewing Treaty implementation, taking concrete actions to press for the implementation of the Resolution on the Middle East is indeed central to the effectiveness of the Treaty in the global and regional contexts and to ensuring the strengthening the implementation of the Treaty and the comprehensive package of adopted in the Review and Extension Conference of 1995.

The failure of the 2005 Review Conference was a result of a number of causes, among which was the failure of the Conference to promptly address the Implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East, since some parties claimed that the Resolution did not represent a part of the indefinite extension package, at the time. It was without doubt that the Resolution was and will continue to be an integral part of the indefinite extension package without which the majority which existed in support for the indefinite extension would have never been achieved.

It is the view of NAM, the Arab Group and Egypt, that the primary responsibility in implementing the Resolution is primarily the responsibility of the three depositories of the NPT, as custodians of the Treaty and as they prepared and sponsored the draft Resolution in 1995. Similar responsibility falls on the entire membership of the Treaty to craft the concrete steps necessary for its implementation.

We welcome the support expressed at this review cycle, including this session of the Preparatory Committee, for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, especially support expressed by nuclear-weapon-States, and feel that

such support for the establishment of the zone as a first step in implementing the Resolution on the Middle East, should be translated into a concrete action plan with a specific mechanism to be entrusted with a specific mandate within a specific time frame. Therefore, we look for a special section in the current PrepCom's substantive document and in the 2010 Review Conference final document dealing specifically with this issue.

In its working paper submitted to the Third Preparatory Committee on "the Implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East", the delegation of Egypt proposed a number of practical steps that can enable the Review Conference to pursue efforts to implement the resolution. Those include the following:

- 1) Reconfirmation by the Conference of the unequivocal commitment to the principles and objectives of the Resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference accompanied by a pledge renewing the resolve of NPT States to undertake individually and collectively all necessary measures aimed at the prompt implementation of the Resolution, including the accession by Israel to the Treaty as soon as possible, as a non-nuclear-weapon State, and the placement of all its nuclear facilities under full scope IAEA safeguards, as well as the reaffirmation of the commitments of all the non-nuclear-weapon-States members of the Treaty in the Middle East, without exception, not to acquire, develop or allow the existence of nuclear weapons on their territories.
- 2) Within the assertion of the strict adherence by all states party to their non-proliferation obligations and commitments under the Treaty, it should be reaffirmed that any supply arrangement for the transfer of any nuclear material, equipment or know-how to Israel, should require as a necessary precondition, Israel's accession to the Treaty as a non nuclear weapon state, and the placement of all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive IAEA safeguards.
- 3) Convening by 2011 an International Conference on an internationally and effectively verifiable treaty for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East aimed at launching regional negotiations with specific targets, mechanisms and time frame.

4) Requesting States Party to disclose in their national reports on the Implementation of the Resolution on the Middle East, all information available to them on the nature and scope of Israeli nuclear facilities, activities and capabilities, including information pertaining to previous nuclear transfers to Israel.

5) Establishing a Standing Committee to follow up, in the intersessional period, progress achieved in the implementation of the Resolution on the Middle East, and to conduct necessary consultations with the states of the region in that regard, as well as to undertake necessary preparations for the convening of the International Conference on the establishment of a Nuclear Weapon free Zone in the Middle East.

6) Establishing a subsidiary body to Main Committee II of the 2010 Review Conference exclusively mandated with the formulation of a follow- up mechanism for implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East.

These are some practical steps that can be adopted by the Review Conference in 2010 not only to address the existing nuclear threats against NPT-member States of the Middle East posed by nuclear capabilities that exist in our region outside the NPT regime, contributing to the security value of the NPT in this region, but also to uphold the commitments adopted by consensus in 1995 and 2000 and consolidate the effectiveness of the NPT in a region where its contribution to regional security continues to be significantly undermined.

Our final objective remains the adoption of the 2010 Review Conference of practical steps in the context of a constructive approach which would contribute to the success of the Conference, and to the continued international strive to bring about nuclear disarmament, promote nuclear non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Egypt looks forward to the support of all NPT parties in this endeavor aiming at the full implementation of the Middle East resolution.

Thank you.

