

Islamic Republic of

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Permanent Mission to the United Nations
Statement

**by the Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran
at the third Session of the Preparatory Committee
of 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-
Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
New York, 8 May 2009**

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.

More than 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 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) in this regard.

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 objectives of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East. It also 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.

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 the only non-party to the NPT to threaten its neighbors and the region. In this regard, we express our serious concern over the statement by the ex-prime minister of the Zionist Regime in an interview with a German television on 12 December 2006. This statement which explicitly acknowledged possession of nuclear weapons is in absolute contravention with the idea of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. That acknowledgment was condemned by the Non-Aligned Movement in the statement issued on 5 February 2007. Moreover, this Regime's development and possession of nuclear weapons not only violate basic principles of international law, United Nations Charter, the NPT 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 NPT.

It has to be recalled that during the IAEA's General Conference and the Board of Governors in 2007, after almost all Member States expressed serious security concerns and condemned Israeli Regime, the Israeli Regime's representative rejected the Statement by its prime minister by denying the possession of nuclear weapons. Though my delegation was not surprised from such hypocrisy, however it requested the Director General to send a fact finding inspection team to Israel to clarify what is the truth.

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.

The brutal attacks by Israeli regime to its neighbors under the absurd excuses, killing civilians, including women and children in Gaza by prohibited and devastating weapons and defying any call by international community to stop the bloodshed of the innocent people, all show how serious the threat of such an aggressive regime is. Needless to say how much nuclear weapon in hands of such a regime could endanger the regional as well as international peace and security.

Given the above mentioned facts, 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 1995 and 2000 NPT Review Conferences.

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.

Mr. Chairman,

The nuclear weapons 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 agreement signed by the director of the Israeli Atomic Energy Commission, and the chairman of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, enables Zionist Regime to access most of the latest nuclear data and technology available in the United States. 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 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, have let this regime believe that the law of jungle rules the world.

Mr. Chairman,

I have to recall that Israeli regime has the darkest record of violation of international laws in particular through breaking the taboo of armed attack against nuclear installation in 80s. Except few Western countries specifically the 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, proposed by the Islamic Republic of Iran, 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.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, the Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the Review Conferences has to take these concerns which are directly related to national, regional and international

security into its serious considerations and take decisive measures. 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 only non-party in the region, to renounce possession of nuclear weapons, to accede promptly to the NPT as a non-nuclear weapon party, and to immediately place all its nuclear facilities under IAEA full-scope safeguards.

Thank You.

