

Explanation of Vote on draft Resolutions L.1 & L.2

By Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Mr. Chairman,

I have taken the floor to explain the position of my delegation regarding the draft resolutions L.1 and L.2 respectively entitled “Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East”, and “The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East” which will be raised in this Committee in a few minutes.

Since Iran's initiative in 1974, the General Assembly has consistently endorsed the idea of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and recognized that such a zone would greatly enhance international peace and security.

Adherence to the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) by all Parties directly concerned is a prerequisite to ensuring the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. As it was reflected in many statements by Member States during our exercise in this Committee, all in the Middle East region, except the Zionist regime, have become Parties to the Treaty and this regime remains the only impediment in realizing such a zone in the Middle East. The Middle East could have become a nuclear-weapon-free zone had it not been for the said regime's continuous refusal to subject itself to any type of international monitoring.

Mr. Chairman,

Addressing the threat posed by the unabated nuclear weapons program of the said regime to the regional and international peace and security requires meaningful actions. It is no secret that the United States by

adoption of extremely damaging policies is actively hindering any meaningful action in international fora to address this real threat.

Mr. Chairman,

Being indifferent towards the Zionist regime's nuclear weapons is a disservice to the NPT regime. In this context, we believe that inconsistent approach of certain European countries towards non-proliferation regime has sent a wrong message to the said regime. If these Western States continue to turn blind eyes towards this real proliferation threat, they would lose their remaining credibility throughout the Middle East region.

Unjustified and unwarranted focus on the peaceful safeguarded nuclear facilities rather than addressing the existing proliferation threat posed by un-safeguarded secret nuclear weapons installations of the Zionist regime is counterproductive and constitutes a dangerous distraction.

We remain committed to spare no effort in promoting the goal of nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.