

The Risk of Nuclear Proliferation in the Middle East (L.2)

Explanation of vote by

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Mr. Chair,

The current situation vis-à-vis nuclear proliferation in the Middle East warrants the question whether document L.2 entitled “The Risk of Nuclear Proliferation in the Middle East” has any connection with reality.

There is no doubt that a risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East indeed exists. There have been many alarming proliferation developments in recent years in the Middle East; none of them involved Israel, but all of them have challenged our security. 3 out of 4 widely acknowledged cases have taken place in the Middle East and another case is under investigation. These developments demonstrate an alarming attitude of certain States of the region to their international commitments in the nuclear domain.

Our region also suffers from the irresponsible behavior of some states outside the region who continue to export ballistic missiles and WMD-related technology to countries of the region.

Mr. Chair,

Israel expects that under the title of risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East, the international community would call at minimum for compliance by States with their relevant international obligations. This is particularly true of Iran's ongoing clandestine activities in the nuclear sphere and its total disregard of IAEA and UNSC resolutions

.Lamentably, this resolution chooses to ignore relevant IAEA and UNSC resolutions as well as the evidence contained in relevant reports regarding such violations.

Moreover, this resolution focuses entirely on Israel and singles it out. It does so, while overlooking Iran's hostile policies and statements, including calls made by the Iranian President for Israel's destruction. These have been accompanied by vicious anti-Semitic remarks, as has been made yet again a short while ago at the General Assembly's general debate.

Mr. Chair,

Adopting such a resolution will not serve the greater objective of curbing proliferation in the Middle East nor will it contribute to the role and standing of this body. We call upon the distinguished delegates to vote against this resolution and distance themselves from attempts aimed at deviating the focus from addressing the real risks of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East and thus deteriorate the credibility of this UN body.

Thank you Mr. Chair.