

Mr. Chairman,

In 2008, Canada took the floor after the vote on that year's version of the risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East Resolution as it unfairly singled out Israel. We continue to resist such efforts, both here and in similar resolutions in other fora, including the IAEA.

If the goal of this Resolution is the prevention of proliferation of nuclear weapons in the Middle East, as its title would indicate, then the Resolution should, in our view, not only call for all states in the region to accede and unequivocally adhere to the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, but it should also call for these states to comply fully with all of their obligations.

To the degree to which this resolution is intended to recognize that the proliferation of nuclear weapons in the Middle East would pose a serious threat to international peace and security then the resolution should identify the country that poses the most serious threat of proliferation in the region: Iran. We regret that Iran has failed to comply with UN Security Council Resolutions 1835, 1803, 1747, 1737 and 1696 and are gravely concerned by further recent revelations of undeclared nuclear facilities. Iran has chosen to ignore these Security Council obligations and the efforts of the international community to arrive at an equitable and lasting solution which would meet the concerns of the international community with regard to Iran's intentions.

Canada also remains very concerned about revelations last year that point to possible undeclared facilities and activities in Syria and we encourage Syria to cooperate fully with the International Atomic Energy Agency in resolving this matter.

For these reasons, Canada chose again this year to abstain on this resolution.