

Statement
by the Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran
before the First Session of the Preparatory Committee
of 2010 Review Conference of the Parties
to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation
of Nuclear Weapons
9 May, 2007

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. I would like to assure you the full support and cooperation of my delegation for the long-sought cause of the realization of such a zone in the Middle East region.

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 a 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).

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 goals and objectives of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East, as well as 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. In addition to giving each other mutual guarantees against nuclear attack, countries which form a NWFZ hope to free themselves from the threats of nuclear-weapons states by receiving legally binding assurances through their adherences to NWFZ protocols.

Mr. Chairman,

We are of the view that stability cannot be achieved in a region where massive imbalances in military capabilities are maintained particularly through the possession of nuclear weapons which allow one party to threaten its neighbors and the region. In this regard, we express our serious concern over the recent statement in which the Prime Minister of the Zionist Regime in an interview with a German television on 12 December 2006, in contradiction to the idea of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East explicitly acknowledged possession of nuclear weapons. Moreover, This Regime's clandestine development and possession of nuclear weapons not only violate basic principles of international law, United Nations Charter, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons 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 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

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. 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. 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 security as well as the reliability of the global non-proliferation regime.

Mr. Chairman,

The clandestine and undeclared nuclear 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 potential threat by the Zionist Regime's nuclear weapons to the peace and security of the region and the world, in an urgent manner.

The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the Conferences to review the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons have a significant role in the realization of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. The Conference has to condemn the Zionist Regime for continuing to develop and stockpile nuclear arsenals and to express its grave concern over the acquisition of nuclear weapons and capability by this Regime which poses a serious and continuing threat to the security of neighboring and other States. 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 non-party in the region, to renounce possession of nuclear weapons, to accede promptly to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as a non-nuclear weapon party, and to immediately place all its nuclear facilities under IAEA full-scope safeguards. The IAEA, being the sole international technical organization in this area has to prepare a thorough report on the nuclear weapon capabilities of Israel and keep the international community informed of any development in this respect.

I Thank You.