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## Seventy-ninth session

Items 94 and 101 of the provisional agenda\*

### Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East

The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East

## Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East

### Report of the Secretary-General

#### *Summary*

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution [78/17](#), in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to pursue consultations with the States of the region and other concerned States, in accordance with paragraph 7 of its resolution [46/30](#) and taking into account the evolving situation in the region. As at 31 May 2024, the Secretary-General had received replies from eight Member States and the European Union.

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\* [A/79/50](#).



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## I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 10 of its resolution 78/17 on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to pursue consultations with the States of the region and other concerned States, in accordance with paragraph 7 of its resolution 46/30 and taking into account the evolving situation in the region. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of those States on the measures outlined in chapters III and IV of the study annexed to the report of the Secretary-General of 10 October 1990 (A/45/435) or other relevant measures, in order to move towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East. In paragraph 11 of resolution 78/17, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit, at its seventy-ninth session, a report on the implementation of the resolution. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request.

2. On 31 January 2024, the Office for Disarmament Affairs sent a note verbale to all Member States, drawing their attention to paragraphs 10 and 11 of resolution 78/17 and seeking their views on the matter, with the deadline of 31 May 2024 for the submission of reports. Any views received after that deadline would be posted on the website of the Office in the language of submission. No addenda would be issued.

3. Replies were received from the Governments of Argentina, China, Cuba, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Mexico and the Syrian Arab Republic. The replies are reproduced in section III of the present report. A reply received from the European Union is reproduced in section IV, in accordance with the modalities set out in resolution 65/276.

## II. Observations

4. During its sixty-seventh regular session, held in September 2023, the General Conference of the International Atomic Agency (IAEA) adopted its annual resolution, submitted by Egypt, on the application of IAEA safeguards in the Middle East (resolution GC(67)/RES/13) with a significant majority and no votes against. Israel, along with eight other member States, abstained. During the discussion of the resolution, many States stressed the importance of the universalization of comprehensive safeguards agreements, especially in the region of the Middle East, as an important step towards realizing a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, noting that it would constitute a key element in the ongoing efforts to ensure the security and stability of the region and a significant contribution to maintaining international peace and security. The representatives of Israel and the United States of America stated that only durable peace and the full compliance of States in the region with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons would pave the way for the establishment of such a zone. The representative of Azerbaijan (speaking on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries) emphasized that there was no automatic sequence between the application of safeguards and the conclusion of a peace settlement in the Middle East. Many States urged IAEA, through its Director-General, to continue consultations with member States in the region with a view to ensuring implementation of the adopted resolution.

5. During that same session, the representative of Jordan, on behalf of the Arab States members of IAEA, requested the inclusion of an agenda item entitled “Israeli nuclear capabilities”. As has been the practice since 2016, the Group of Arab States did not introduce a resolution under that item. Many States expressed their concern at the negative impact on regional security and stability owing to the possession of nuclear weapons by Israel. Recalling numerous outcomes of Review Conferences of

Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the representative of the United Arab Emirates (speaking on behalf of the Group of Arab States) called on the international community to shoulder its responsibility of ridding the world, and especially the Middle East, of nuclear weapons. The representatives of the United Arab Emirates (speaking on behalf of the Group of Arab States) and of Egypt also expressed their regret that the refusal of Israel to accede to the Non-Proliferation Treaty was hampering efforts to establish a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. The representatives of Israel and the United States regretted that the item had been raised again, stating that it diverted time and energy from the technical work of the General Conference.

6. At the meetings of the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2026 Review Conference of the Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, held in July and August 2023 in Vienna, several States expressed their support for the resolution on the Middle East,<sup>1</sup> which calls for the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, with many States calling on Israel to accede to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and submit all its nuclear facilities to IAEA comprehensive safeguards. A number of States stated that the resolution was an integral part of the bargain that secured the indefinite extension of the Treaty. In connection with the resolution, the representatives of Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (speaking on behalf of the Group of Arab States) emphasized the special responsibility of the co-sponsors of the resolution – the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States – for its implementation. Many States recognized the achievements of the three sessions held to date of the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction. The representatives of Azerbaijan (speaking on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries), Egypt and Lebanon called on all the States of the Middle East that had not yet done so to participate in the annual sessions of the Conference.

7. At the meetings of the First Committee during the seventy-eighth session of the General Assembly, held in October and November 2023, several Member States expressed their support for the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the region of the Middle East, while the representatives of Kuwait and the Islamic Republic of Iran described Israel as the main obstacle to its establishment. Many States commended the progress made at the three sessions of the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction held to date, with a number of States calling for efforts towards the conclusion of a treaty. In that connection, the representatives of Egypt, Kuwait, and Jordan (speaking on behalf of the Group of Arab States) called on all invited States to participate in the Conference, while the representative of Yemen stated that the refusal of Israel to participate in the work of the Conference was fuelling a regional arms race. In response, the representative of Israel described the approach taken at the Conference as unhelpful, since it was not supported by all States in the region. Throughout the meetings, representatives of members of the Group of Arab States and the Islamic Republic of Iran condemned Israeli military actions in Gaza and stressed the urgency for the establishment of the zone.

8. At its meeting on 27 October 2023, the First Committee adopted General Assembly resolution 78/17 on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East by a vote, as consensus had been broken on the resolution since 2018. Israel voted against the resolution and the United States of America

<sup>1</sup> See [NPT/CONF.1995/32 \(Part I\)](#), annex.

abstained, citing ongoing divergence of views among States of the region on the matter.

9. The fourth session of the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction was held in New York from 13 to 17 November 2023, under the presidency of Libya.

10. Twenty-two members to the Conference from the region, four observer States (China, France, Russian Federation and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) and three relevant international entities (IAEA, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit) participated in the session. The President of the General Assembly, Dennis Francis of Trinidad and Tobago, and Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Izumi Nakamitsu (on behalf of the Secretary-General) made statements at the opening of the session. The Conference adopted by consensus a report on its work, which included a summary of its substantive deliberations on several key issues related to the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. The report also included a substantive summary of the work of its working committee in 2023. The Conference also agreed on the topics that the working committee should address during the intersessional period in 2024, namely, nuclear verification; peaceful uses and technical cooperation; and an index of the list of topics to be addressed by future sessions of the Conference.

11. The working committee held its first meeting on 20 February 2024 to discuss organizational matters. The second meeting was held from 30 April to 2 May 2024, during which deliberations were undertaken, with input from experts in relevant fields, on the topic of peaceful uses. The third meeting was held from 1 to 3 July 2024, during which deliberations focused on the topic of nuclear verification.

12. Qatar and the Office for Disarmament Affairs co-organized a regional meeting in Doha on 4 and 5 June on perspectives on a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. The meeting was focused on a review of the progress made in the Conference process and the way forward for its future sessions.

13. The fifth session of the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction is scheduled to take place in New York from 14 to 18 November 2024.

14. The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) published *Narratives of the Middle East WMD-Free Zone: Drivers, Themes and Historical Accounts* as well as the “Middle East WMD Free Zone Project: Final Report” outlining the main takeaways of the project’s first phase. The second phase of the project, launched in July 2023, is designed (a) to assist in mitigating regional trends in the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; (b) to encourage regional security arrangements and arms control, non-proliferation, and disarmament norms and processes; (c) to develop a more in-depth understanding of the relationship between the Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction and current regional and international developments; and (d) to promote an effective, verifiable, inclusive, and sustainable zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

15. Progress in the Middle East peace process would contribute to the process of establishing a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. Any increased instability could heighten risks of increased competition for nuclear development, to the detriment of ongoing non-proliferation efforts. In that connection, all parties concerned, inside and outside the region, should seek to achieve such progress. The United Nations remains ready to provide any

assistance in that regard. In that context, the continued lack of prospects for a peaceful settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict are deeply concerning. The threats to regional stability have grown exponentially in the past year, particularly following the October 7 attacks by Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups, and the subsequent Israeli military operation in Gaza. Escalation of violence throughout the region, with increased exchanges of fire across the Blue Line between Israel and Hizbullah and other non-State armed groups in Lebanon, unprecedented exchanges between Israel and the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Houthi attacks on vessels in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, only add to the dangerous risks of a regional spillover. The devastation and suffering of the past nine months have reinforced the absolute need for Israelis, Palestinians, the States of the region and the broader international community to take the urgent steps that will enable the parties to re-engage on the long-delayed political path to achieving a two-State solution. The United Nations remains committed to supporting Palestinians and Israelis in ending the occupation and resolving the conflict in line with international law, relevant United Nations resolutions and bilateral agreements in pursuit of the vision of two States – Israel and an independent, democratic, contiguous, viable and sovereign Palestinian State – living side by side in peace and security within secure and recognized borders, on the basis of the pre-1967 lines, with Jerusalem as the capital of both States. It is only by realizing that vision of two States living side by side in peace, security and mutual recognition, with Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and Palestine, and all final status issues resolved permanently through negotiations, that the legitimate aspirations of both peoples will be achieved.

16. Since the submission of the previous report of the Secretary-General ([A/78/205 \(Part I\)](#)), the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the United Nations have continued their efforts towards the full implementation of Security Council resolution [2118 \(2013\)](#) on the elimination of the chemical weapons programme of the Syrian Arab Republic. The use of chemical weapons anywhere, by anyone, under any circumstances, is a grave violation of international law. Impunity for such acts is unacceptable, and the absence of accountability for the use of chemical weapons continues to be a threat to international peace and security.

### III. Replies received from Governments

#### Argentina

[Original: Spanish]

[22 March 2024]

Argentina maintains a permanent stance of clear support for the establishment and consolidation of nuclear-weapon-free zones, on the understanding that they make important contributions to peace and security for the States that are part of them.

A clear example of this in the Latin American and Caribbean region is the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco), which was opened for signature on 14 February 1967 and entered into force on 25 April 1969. This instrument established the first nuclear-weapon-free zone in a permanently populated territory and, to date, has been ratified by all the States in the region. In addition, the Treaty of Tlatelolco has two Additional Protocols: Additional Protocol I (signed and ratified by France, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States) is intended for extra-regional States with de jure or de facto responsibility for territories in the zone of application of the Treaty; and Addition Protocol II (signed and ratified by China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States) is designed for the nuclear-weapon States.

In this context, the contribution of the Treaty of Tlatelolco has been real and effective, since it strengthened the regional commitment to non-proliferation and disarmament and succeeded, through its system of Protocols, in binding the nuclear-weapon States so that they do not violate the region's status as a nuclear-weapon-free zone. However, efforts should continue to be made to withdraw or revise the interpretative declarations to the Protocols that are contrary to the object and purpose of the Treaty. Argentina continues to call for this and is making every effort to that end within the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean.

While the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in various regions does not replace the nuclear disarmament obligations of the nuclear-weapon States, it can at least help to restore confidence that, until such disarmament takes place, non-nuclear-weapon States will not be threatened with nuclear weapons.

Regarding the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, Argentina has argued the importance of establishing a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, on the understanding that this would be a momentous step forward in the peace process in the region. It is hoped that this can be freely agreed upon by the participating States.

To this end, the Treaty of Tlatelolco and the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials may provide valuable background experience.

## China

[Original: Chinese]  
[26 May 2023]

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 78/17 on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East, the Government of China hereby presents its position and views regarding the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

The establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East is conducive to preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons, easing tensions in the Middle East and enhancing peace and security in the region and in the world. While promoting reconciliation and cooperation among States in the Middle East and advancing the Middle East peace process, the international community should continue to attach great importance to and actively support efforts to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region.

The relevant resolutions and decisions of the previous sessions of the General Assembly, the resolution on the Middle East adopted at the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference and the Final Documents of the 2000 and 2010 NPT Review Conferences should be conscientiously complied with. The decision of the seventy-third session of the General Assembly on the convening of a conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction (decision 73/546) should be actively implemented.

Israel should without delay accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as a non-nuclear-weapon State, place all its nuclear facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards and stop making statements threatening the use of nuclear weapons. The countries concerned in the Middle East region should sign and ratify IAEA comprehensive safeguards agreements as soon as possible. The international community should continue to encourage the countries

concerned in the Middle East to sign and ratify the Additional Protocol to IAEA safeguards agreements as soon as possible.

China has always firmly supported international efforts to establish a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. China constructively participated as an observer in the four sessions of the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction in 2019, 2021, 2022 and 2023 and worked with all parties to inject new impetus into the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. China calls on the relevant nuclear-weapon States and the countries of the region to earnestly assume their due responsibilities, respond to the legitimate and reasonable demands of the Arab countries and actively participate in this process.

In March 2021, during his visit to the Middle East, Wang Yi, who was then State Councillor and Minister for Foreign Affairs, put forward a five-point initiative to achieve security and stability in the region. As one of the main pillars of the initiative, China called on the international community to support the efforts of the countries of the region to establish a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. In December 2021, China submitted a working paper on nuclear-weapon-free zones and the nuclear issue in the Middle East to the Tenth Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

In February 2023, the Government of China issued the Global Security Initiative Concept Paper, emphasizing the “implementation of the five-point proposal on realizing peace and stability in the Middle East, including advocating mutual respect, upholding equity and justice, realizing nuclear non-proliferation, jointly fostering collective security and accelerating development cooperation so as to jointly establish a new security framework in the Middle East.”

China stands ready to continue to actively participate in the relevant process and contribute to the early realization of the goal of establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

China hopes that these views can be reflected in the relevant reports of the United Nations Secretary-General.

## **Cuba**

[Original: Spanish]  
[28 May 2024]

Nuclear-weapons-free zones represent a concrete legal achievement of the utmost importance in the field of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. They promote peace and stability at the regional and international levels by prohibiting the possession, acquisition, development, testing, manufacturing, production, stockpiling, deployment and use of nuclear weapons. These zones are an important contribution to international efforts for the total elimination of nuclear weapons in a transparent, verifiable and irreversible manner and must be respected by all States, without reservations or other limitations.

The Latin American and Caribbean region has made a significant contribution to nuclear disarmament and to the maintenance of international peace and security, being the first densely populated area in the world to be declared a nuclear-weapon-free zone under the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) and the first region to be proclaimed a “zone of peace” at the second Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, held in Havana in 2014.



The Treaty of Tlatelolco has been a political, legal and institutional benchmark for the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in other regions of the world. Those zones have been established through the adoption of the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Rarotonga), the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (Treaty of Bangkok), the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba), the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia (Treaty of Semipalatinsk) and the declaration by Mongolia regarding its nuclear-weapon-free status.

The establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction continues to be unfinished business and today, more than ever, is an imperative. For such a zone to be established, Israel must renounce its possession of nuclear weapons, accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons without delay, as a non-nuclear-weapon State, and immediately place all its nuclear facilities under the safeguards system of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), in order to comply, without delay and without conditions, with the just demands of the international community.

Until Israel accedes to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Governments concerned must immediately cease cooperating with and assisting the nuclear programme of that country, as this is clearly contrary to the letter and spirit of the Treaty.

It is regrettable that, despite the many resolutions and decisions adopted at the Review Conferences of the Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, and by the General Assembly and IAEA, the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons has still not been achieved. Those resolutions and decisions remain valid until their objectives are achieved. One aspect that undermines confidence in the Non-Proliferation Treaty is the failure to implement the commitments reached during the Review Conferences.

In view of the upcoming Review Conference, due attention should be paid to the resolution on the Middle East, adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and to the 2010 plan of action, if the credibility of this instrument is to be restored. A consensus needs to be reached that is beneficial for the parties and that restores confidence in the Treaty and in the nuclear disarmament regime in general.

Note has been taken of the efforts made by the respective Presidents and participating States of the Conferences on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction to maintain momentum and move this process forward.

The long-awaited goal of establishing a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction through a legally binding treaty can be achieved only through constructive engagement and a real commitment.

The establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East will be not only an important contribution to achieving the goal of nuclear disarmament, but also a momentous step forward in the peace process in that region.

## Egypt

[Original: English]  
[28 March 2024]

### Introduction

Egypt has relentlessly pursued the objective of ridding the Middle East of nuclear weapons since the inclusion of the item entitled “Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East” on the agenda of the General Assembly in 1974. Egypt has continued to play a leading role in promoting the objective of ridding the Middle East of nuclear weapons and has worked diligently through the United Nations and the Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Since 1980, the General Assembly has annually adopted a resolution, without a vote, reflecting unanimous endorsement of the establishment of this zone in the Middle East, thereby providing a universal common denominator. Regrettably, in 2018, the 38-year-long consensus on the resolution was broken by two States for reasons that are not pertinent in any manner to the resolution itself.

In principle, Egypt reiterates its firm rejection of any allegations suggesting that multilateral forums, including the Review Conference or the United Nations, are not appropriate for discussing and implementing the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

### Implementation of the outcomes of the Review Conferences:

Egypt believes that the universality of the Non-Proliferation Treaty will naturally address the unacceptable situation in which one State in the region continues to refuse to adhere to the Treaty while in practice enjoying its benefits. The Treaty, with its 191 parties, sets norms of a peremptory character that are those of the international community as a whole, rather than just its parties.

Egypt notes that all the States of the Middle East are parties to the Treaty, with the exception of Israel, which, regrettably, continues to ignore the repeated calls to accede to the Treaty and to place all its nuclear activities under full-scope International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards, thereby perpetuating a dangerous imbalance and, accordingly, posing a grave threat to peace and security.

The 2000 Review Conference, in its Final Document ([NPT/CONF.2000/28 \(Parts I and II\)](#)), recalled that in paragraph 4 of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, the Conference had called upon all States of the Middle East that had not yet done so, without exception, to accede to the Treaty as soon as possible and to place their nuclear facilities under full-scope IAEA safeguards. The Conference also noted, in that connection, that the background paper prepared by the United Nations Secretariat on the implementation of the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference ([NPT/CONF.2000/7](#)) stated that several States had acceded to the Treaty and that, with those accessions, all States of the region of the Middle East, with the exception of Israel, were States parties to the Treaty. The Conference welcomed the accession of those States and reaffirmed the importance of Israel’s accession to the Treaty and the placement of all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive IAEA safeguards.

The 2010 Review Conference, in its Final Document ([NPT/CONF.2010/50 \(Vol. I\)](#)), addressed Israel’s non-adherence to the Treaty. It reaffirmed “the urgency and importance of achieving the universality of the Treaty” and recalled “the

importance of Israel's accession to the Treaty and the placement of all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive IAEA safeguards". The action plan of the 2010 Review Conference clearly recognizes the resolution on the Middle East as an essential element of the outcome of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference and as an integral component of the package of decisions based on which the Treaty was extended indefinitely, without a vote, in 1995. In an effort to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, in the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference, the importance of a process leading to the full implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East was emphasized and, to that end, a number of practical steps and commitments were endorsed. Among those steps was the convening by the Secretary-General and the co-sponsors of the 1995 resolution, in consultation with the States of the region, of "a conference in 2012, to be attended by all States of the Middle East, on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction". It was also stipulated that, as a practical step, the Secretary-General and the co-sponsors of the 1995 resolution, in consultation with the States of the region, would appoint a facilitator with a specific mandate in that regard, and would designate a host Government for the 2012 conference. This eventually took place in October 2011, almost 17 months after the adoption of the action plan.

The conference in 2012 would have been a step towards establishing the nuclear-weapon-free zone in accordance with the Final Document of the 2010 Conference. The conference was intended to provide a positive and meaningful contribution towards establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. However, the holding of the conference was not intended to be an end in itself; rather, it should have launched a productive process to fully implement the 1995 resolution through concrete steps and within specific time frames.

Egypt regretted the postponement of the 2012 conference and considered it a breach of the obligations of the conveners of the conference pursuant to the 1995 resolution on the Middle East and the Final Document of the 2010 Conference. The unilateral postponement of the conference to an unspecified future date was announced without consulting with the States of the region. The postponement was a flagrant non-fulfilment of agreed commitments, and another step in a long history of unimplemented decisions. Egypt reiterates that the resolution and other decisions on the subject adopted within the context of the Review Conferences remain valid until they are implemented. Egypt reiterated the call for the prompt and full implementation of the 1995 resolution and the outcomes of the 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences, and the special responsibility that rests with the nuclear-weapon States, especially the three depositary States that co-sponsored the 1995 resolution, in addition to the Secretary-General.

It is to be recalled that the Security Council called upon Israel "urgently to place its nuclear facilities under the safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency" (see Council resolution [487 \(1981\)](#)) and recalled "the objective of the establishment of a nuclear weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East" (see Council resolution [687 \(1991\)](#)).

### **Process of the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction**

Given the continued delay in and the urgent need for the implementation of the resolution on the Middle East, and to overcome the prolonged impasse, the Group of Arab States submitted a draft decision in 2018 to the General Assembly that entrusted the Secretary-General with convening a conference no later than 2019 on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

In a clear demonstration of support for the draft decision, the Assembly adopted decision 73/546.

The Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction has employed the 1995 resolution on the Middle East as its terms of reference and has adopted a consensus-based, State-led process on the basis of “arrangements freely arrived at by the States of the region”.

The concept and format of the Conference provide an unmatched opportunity for consensus-based, inclusive, and constructive dialogue among the countries of the region, without any preconditions.

### **Conference proceedings and outcomes**

The four sessions of the Conference were convened with the full and active participation of all States of the region, except Israel, and in the presence of the nuclear-weapon States, except the United States, and relevant international disarmament bodies, participating as observers, including IAEA, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit.

The first session of the Conference adopted a political declaration which, *inter alia*, emphasized the open and inclusive nature of the Conference and extended an invitation to all States of the region to join the process. Furthermore, the political declaration underscored the central importance of the principles of transparency and inclusivity of the Conference by its reference to the principle of “arrangements freely arrived at by consensus by the States of the region”.

The second session of the Conference concluded by adopting a set of outcomes, including the rules of procedure of the Conference, a substantive final report and a decision establishing a working committee for intersessional deliberations.

The third session of the Conference arrived at a constructive consensual outcome, including a deepening understanding of the main obligations under the intended treaty.

The fourth session of the Conference in November 2023 agreed on a rich final report and directed the working committee to develop an index of topics that can contribute to predictability and the preparatory process.

The Conference has proved its inclusive nature, refrained from targeting or singling out any Member State, and avoided any naming and shaming. Rule 21 of the rules of procedure stipulates that consensus shall be the only method of decision-making on procedural and substantive issues. The Conference provides an opportunity to all parties to raise their concerns regarding any regional issue relevant to its mandate.

The draft final document of the tenth Review Conference contained an agreed positive reference to the Conference and its support of and compatibility with the objective of the 1995 resolution.

### **Conclusion**

Nuclear-weapon-free zones, especially in areas of instability such as the Middle East, contribute significantly to building confidence, preventing conflict, and developing peaceful relations. The establishment of such a zone in the Middle East remains a pressing priority and an agreed commitment.

In early November 2023, an Israeli Cabinet Minister threatened to use atomic bombs against Gaza. A region free of nuclear weapons in the Middle East is the only

effective guarantee against the occurrence and recurrence of such outrageous nuclear threats and intimidation.

The only requirement for the commencement of negotiations is the existence of political will among the States of the region and the nuclear-weapon States that are co-sponsors of the 1995 resolution.

This needs to be promptly translated into practical action, including through a clear agenda, under the auspices of the United Nations. Egypt looks forward to an earnest cooperative process to implement the agreed measures necessary to pave the way for the successful commencement of negotiations on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone through the Conference established by the General Assembly.

In conclusion, Egypt reaffirms its commitment to continue to strive for a nuclear-weapon-free world, and its conviction that such inhumane weapons pose a grave threat to the very existence of humankind and constitute a violation of the Charter of the United Nations, international humanitarian law, and the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

## **Iran (Islamic Republic of)**

[Original: English]  
[8 May 2024]

In alignment with Iran's deliberate commitment to reject all weapons of mass destruction and its participation in relevant treaties, specifically the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, our active and constructive engagement in all sessions of the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction stands as a strong testament to our sincere pursuit of complete and permanent elimination of all weapons of mass destruction. This underscores the resolute and enduring dedication of the Islamic Republic of Iran to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, as well as to the materialization of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East – an initiative first presented by Iran in 1974.

Expressing our disappointment with the lack of progress observed in the consecutive Review Conferences of the Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty of 2015 and 2022, as well as the fourth and fifth Chemical Weapons Convention Review Conferences of 2018 and 2023, we find it disheartening to witness the stagnation in advancing the implementation of the resolution on the Middle East adopted at the 1995 Review Conference. The ramifications of such failures on the proceedings and outcomes of the aforementioned Conference warrant global concern.

It is pertinent to reiterate that the pathways stemming from the Review Conferences and General Assembly decision 546 are distinct yet parallel routes aimed at accomplishing this long-overdue objective. The fulfilment of this goal necessitates decisive actions from both avenues. While these two routes can complement each other, they are not interchangeable.

However, given the prevailing circumstances, it is evident that both processes encounter significant obstacles that could undermine their success. To bolster regional security in the Middle East, the Israeli regime must take the foremost step of adopting a transparent policy, relinquishing the concept of strategic ambiguity,

renouncing its possession of weapons of mass destruction, and acceding to all relevant international legally binding agreements. Paramount among these steps is unconditional accession to the Non-Proliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear weapon party, coupled with subjecting all nuclear facilities and activities to comprehensive safeguards administered by the International Atomic Energy Agency. Additionally, the Israeli regime's commitment to implementing the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention is indispensable for the creation of such a zone.

The driving force behind the resolution on the Middle East adopted during the 1995 Review Conference of the Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, along with the outcomes of the 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences, has been a shared concern among Treaty States parties. This concern pertains to the grave threat posed by the Israeli regime's nuclear weapons programme to the security and stability of not only the Middle East but also beyond. It is also rooted in the global aspiration for the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. The existence of this nuclear arsenal obstructs the attainment of peace and stability in this volatile region, and any attempt to downplay the danger of weapons of mass destruction in the hands of this regime is untenable.

It is worth mentioning that the success of the aforementioned Conference is in jeopardy as long as the Israeli regime refrains from participation and receives support from the United States, which also abstains from engaging constructively in the Conference's proceedings. The international community is urged to assist the region in surmounting these obstacles on the path to establishing a Middle East free from all forms of weapons of mass destruction.

The unwavering support provided by the United States to the Israeli regime, which encompasses tolerating this regime's dangerous nuclear weapons programme, in addition to the lack of constructive involvement by both in the said Conference, requires due consideration from the international community. These dynamics significantly impede progress.

The Israeli regime's intransigence and disregard for international norms are sustained by the steadfast backing of the United States. Despite its clear international obligations under the 1995 Middle East resolution and the outcomes of the 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences, the United States persistently falls short of fulfilling these commitments. It is crucial to recognize that as long as the United States adheres to its imprudent and inconsistent approach toward the Israeli regime's clandestine nuclear weapons programme – which indeed is a real case of proliferation in the region – the risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East will persist. Iran welcomes the communiqué issued by the States members of the Organization of Islamic Conference, on 6 November 2023, condemning the Israeli regime's nuclear threat against its two member States, and expects that the same route should and could be followed by the United Nations as a starting point to neutralize the imminent threat of the Israeli regime's arsenals of weapons of mass destruction.

Iran underscores the pivotal role of the United Nations in establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and anticipates the Secretary-General's unwavering efforts to promote this objective in a focused manner. Furthermore, Iran expects the Secretary-General to reaffirm the imperative of the Israeli regime's accession to the Treaty, unconditionally and without delay, as a non-nuclear-weapon party. This step would significantly contribute to realizing the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

## Israel

[Original: English]  
[26 May 2024]

The State of Israel reiterates its explanation of vote regarding resolution [78/17](#) entitled “Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free-zone in the region of the Middle East”, adopted by the General Assembly on 4 December 2023, delivered in the First Committee during the seventy-eighth session of the General Assembly (on 30 October 2023).

Prior to 2018, a long time and considerable international efforts had resulted in a consensus on the draft resolution on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East.

Even though Israel had had its own deep reservations on the language and modalities of this resolution, which had been voiced every year in our explanations of position, Israel had supported the resolution for the sake of the consensus, as Israel’s consistent approach has always been constructive and consensus-oriented.

It is very unfortunate that this long-standing practice was broken by the Arab Group. By imposing a new unilateral and destructive resolution in 2018 entitled “Convening a conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction”, the Arab Group had altered the status quo, thereby forcing Israel to disassociate itself from the resolution in question.

## Mexico

[Original: Spanish]  
[2 May 2024]

Mexico is submitting this document in accordance with General Assembly resolution [78/17](#), entitled “Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East”.

Mexico reaffirms its unreserved support for efforts aimed at the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, through arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the respective region. It was one of the pioneering States that established the first such zone.

For Mexico, nuclear-weapon-free zones represent a tangible contribution to nuclear non-proliferation and promote peace and stability at the regional and international levels. While they are not an end in themselves, they are an important intermediate step towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons. In addition, they are a nuclear risk reduction measure that has historically proven effective.

Once a nuclear-weapon-free zone is established, its member States undertake specific obligations not to develop, acquire or use nuclear weapons, and an international commitment not to deploy nuclear weapons belonging to another State on their territories.

Mexico was one of the main advocates of the establishment of the first nuclear-weapon-free zone in a densely populated area and led the process that resulted in the adoption of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco). The Treaty has been a political, legal and institutional benchmark for the establishment of other nuclear-weapon-free zones in other regions of the world.

In keeping with this historic commitment, Mexico has always given its full support to any effort aimed at the establishment of new nuclear-weapon-free zones in

the world. Within the framework of the General Assembly and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Mexico continues to support the efforts of the international community to achieve the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

Mexico believes that the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction is an important part of the commitments that forged the agreement on the indefinite extension of the Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1995, as well as the agreements of the 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences. It is also confident that the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East represents one of the necessary steps towards a broader architecture of peace and security in the region. The establishment of such a zone would help to reduce tensions in the region and promote an atmosphere of peace and security that could contribute to the goal of the elimination of nuclear weapons in that zone.

In that regard, Mexico welcomes the convening of the fourth session of the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and other Weapons of Mass Destruction, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 13 to 17 November 2023. Mexico recognizes the constructive role of Libya in facilitating discussions, with a view to moving towards the adoption of a future legally binding treaty on the matter.

Mexico also recognizes the commitment of the States of the Middle East region at this session, during which they highlighted, on the one hand, the deep concern over the current conflict in the Gaza Strip and the high risk of a new escalation, which could lead to a further expansion of this conflict throughout the region; and they regretted, on the other hand, the nuclear threats made by high-ranking officials of a State in the region, which do not contribute to the advancement of a peace process or to regional and international stability and security.

Mexico urges all States of the Middle East to participate in and continue this series of substantive discussions, with a view to establishing the elements that would constitute a future legally binding treaty on the matter.

Mexico also acknowledges the invaluable support provided by international organizations, academic institutes and civil society organizations, which have contributed elements, studies and proposals to enhance the process for the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East region.

Mexico hopes that the fourth Conference of the States Parties and Signatories to the Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia can be successfully held at an early date.

Mexico encourages the States of the region to continue to adopt collaborative and inclusive approaches to work towards the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the region of the Middle East, an important pending issue for disarmament and non-proliferation. Mexico believes that transparency and confidence-building measures can contribute significantly to creating a better environment among States in the region and that dialogue in regional security forums can promote better mutual understanding. It is also essential to have the political commitment of all the States in the region.

Mexico reiterates that it stands ready to share its experiences and lessons learned from the establishment and implementation of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which established the nuclear-weapon-free zone in Latin America and the Caribbean.



## Syrian Arab Republic

[Original: Arabic]

[28 May 2024]

The Syrian Arab Republic has consistently supported the international disarmament regime. It was one of the first States to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and sign a comprehensive safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). In addition, it is a signatory to the Biological Weapons Convention and has acceded to the Chemical Weapons Convention and fulfilled its related obligations.

The Syrian Arab Republic attaches great importance to the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. It considers the establishment of such a zone to be an important measure for strengthening the non-proliferation regime and a significant contribution to the maintenance of regional and international peace and security. The Syrian Arab Republic, when it was a member of the Security Council in 2002 and 2003, made serious efforts to achieve that aim. It submitted a draft resolution aimed at ridding the Middle East region of all such weapons. However, that initiative was thwarted by a permanent member of the Council in order to serve the interests of the Israeli entity.

The Syrian Arab Republic reaffirms that the resolution on the Middle East adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, by which the Treaty was extended indefinitely, is a key element of the extension package and a main pillar of the non-proliferation regime at the regional level. In addition, the Syrian Arab Republic stresses that the resolution will remain in force until it has been fully implemented.

The Syrian Arab Republic supports the central and vital role of the United Nations in the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, in accordance with the relevant international resolutions and terms of reference. It is important that those resolutions and terms of reference are implemented fully, in particular Security Council resolution 487 (1981), the 1995 resolution on the Middle East and the action plan adopted at the 2010 Review Conference of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, which, regrettably, has not been implemented.

The Syrian Arab Republic participated actively in the four sessions of the conference to establish such a zone that have been held under the auspices of the General Assembly, in accordance with Assembly decision 73/546 of 2018. It considers that the boycotting of those sessions by the United States of America, one of the sponsors of the Middle East resolution, and the refusal of Israel to participate in the conference to be a clear indication of a lack of regard for the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, the resolutions of IAEA and the Non-Proliferation Treaty review conferences.

Israel, which alone possesses nuclear capabilities, has developed an arsenal of weapons of mass destruction with the support of Western countries, led by the United States, that have provided Israel with the necessary technology and equipment. Such support is a clear violation by those countries of the provisions of article I of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, goes against the spirit of the effort to establish a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East and is contrary to the obligations of those Western countries to make the Middle East a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction.

The use of internationally banned white phosphorus by the occupying Israeli forces in their repeated attacks against civilians in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon and the threat that a member of the occupation government made on Sunday, 5 November

2023, to drop an atomic bomb on the people of Gaza constitute fresh evidence that this entity possesses nuclear weapons and also confirm the serious concerns that the countries of the region have about the danger that the possession of such weapons by Israel presents and the serious threat they pose to the security and stability of the region and its countries. All the efforts that Israel has made and continues to make to undermine security and stability in our region makes it imperative to intensify international efforts aimed at establishing a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East through the practical implementation of all relevant international resolutions. It is also imperative that IAEA fulfil its responsibilities and take all measures needed to subject the nuclear programme of Israel to the Agency's comprehensive safeguards regime and its verification and control systems for nuclear facilities and programmes.

The Syrian Arab Republic reiterates its readiness to cooperate with the Secretary-General in order to achieve the goal of establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and stresses that the establishment of such a zone should not be linked in any way to any peace process or other arrangements. Syria considers that failure to establish such a zone would be a major blow to the credibility of the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

#### **IV. Reply received from the European Union**

[Original: English]

[31 May 2024]

The 2016 European Union Global Strategy for the Union's Foreign and Security Policy as well as the 2003 European Union Strategy against the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction are founded on the conviction that a multilateral approach to security, including disarmament and non-proliferation, provides the most effective means of maintaining international order.

The Joint Declaration of the Paris Summit for the Mediterranean of 13 July 2008, establishing the Union for the Mediterranean, reaffirmed the common aspiration to achieve peace as well as regional security as set out in the Barcelona Declaration adopted at the Euro-Mediterranean Conference of 27 and 28 November 1995. The Barcelona Declaration promotes regional security through, inter alia, nuclear, chemical and biological non-proliferation, adherence to regional arrangements such as zones free of nuclear weapons, including their verification regimes, as well as by fulfilling in good faith the commitments of the signatories to the Barcelona Declaration under arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation conventions.

The parties to the Union for the Mediterranean agreed to pursue a mutually and effectively verifiable Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems and to consider practical steps to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons as well as the excessive accumulation of conventional arms.

The European Union reiterates its full support for the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which has laid the foundation for establishing nuclear-free zones around the world as well as the establishment of a Middle East weapons-of-mass-destruction-free zone.

The European Union remains committed to the implementation of the resolution on the Middle East adopted at the 1995 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The European Union strongly supports the outcome of the 2010 Review Conference on the Middle East and reaffirms its full

support for the establishment of a zone free of nuclear and all other weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems in the Middle East, as agreed by Non-Proliferation Treaty States parties. The 2010 Action Plan provides the most promising foundation for moving forward.

The European Union believes that the establishment of such zones, as outlined in the 2010 Review Conference Action Plan, can only occur through voluntary arrangements agreed upon by all States in the region. The European Union maintains that dialogue and building confidence among stakeholders is the only sustainable approach to agree on arrangements for a meaningful conference. The conference should involve all States in the Middle East, based on arrangements freely agreed upon, as decided by the 2010 Review Conference. Inclusivity is vital for effectiveness, as proposals that impose solutions risk failure.

The European Union has consistently conveyed this position at the United Nations, as was also the case in recent United Nations discussions related to concrete proposals on how to take the process forward. The European Union reiterates its support for the Secretary-General's disarmament agenda, *Securing Our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament*, presented on 24 May 2018, which pledges to work with States members of the United Nations to strengthen and consolidate nuclear-weapon-free zones. This includes supporting the further establishment of such zones, including in the Middle East. The European Union takes note of the sessions of the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction, and is encouraged by their outcomes. The European Union calls upon all parties to further their efforts to build an inclusive and consensus-based process, including all States of the region. The European Union emphasises the importance of addressing the security concerns of all these States, encompassing all weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, in accordance with the 1995 resolution on the Middle East and the 2010 Review Conference outcome.

The European Union reaffirms its readiness to assist the process leading to the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, as it has done in the past by facilitating dialogue among States of the region. Several specific legislative acts, European Union Council decisions, have been adopted by the European Union to support United Nations work in this regard. The following Council decisions supporting various projects and activities supporting the process are still ongoing:

- Council Decision (CFSP) 2023/654 of 20 March 2023, implemented by the Office for Disarmament Affairs, is a continuation of European Union support for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1540, in which, based on requests from States, the aim is to raise awareness, enhance national legislative frameworks and enforcement measures, and provide tailored assistance in capacity building.
- Following on to Council Decision (CFSP) 2022/753 of 16 May 2022 in support of a process of confidence-building leading to the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, implemented by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, and which supported European Union efforts to bring the process forward, the European Union renewed its support for the process in 2023. The aim is to advance the European Union's commitment to establishing a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction. The Council adopted on 26 June 2023 Council Decision (CFSP) 2023/1306 in support of a project on a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East in an evolving regional security

environment. The Decision supports a three-year project implemented by the Institute. The objectives are:

- Assisting in mitigating regional trends in proliferation of weapons of mass destruction
- Encouraging regional security arrangements and arms control, non-proliferation, and disarmament norms and processes
- Developing a more in-depth understanding of the relationship between the Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction current regional and international developments
- Promoting an effective, verifiable, inclusive, and sustainable Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction
- Council Decision (CFSP) 2023/1344 of 26 June 2023 supports key activities of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, including the universalization of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction and the implementation of the Decision of the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention on addressing the threat from chemical weapons use (C-SS4/DEC.3) adopted on 27 June 2018.

The European Union reaffirms its readiness to continue to assist the Middle East region, via the European Union Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence Initiative. The Initiative's network brings together experts and professionals from 64 countries that cooperate at the regional and international level to strengthen chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear risk mitigation and to promote a global culture of safety and security. The established Centres of Excellence with regional secretariats, including in Jordan, Algeria, Morocco, and the United Arab Emirates, actively contribute to capacity-building in the region.

Furthermore, the European Union continues to call upon all States in the region that have not yet done so to accede to and abide by the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, and to conclude a comprehensive safeguards agreement, an additional protocol and, as applicable, a revised small quantities protocol with the International Atomic Energy Agency. Subscribing to The Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missiles Proliferation could also contribute to regional confidence-building, which is necessary for progress towards a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction.

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