

**Preparatory Committee for the 2010
Review Conference of the Parties to
the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation
of Nuclear Weapons**

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**ESTABLISHMENT OF A NUCLEAR WEAPONS FREE ZONE IN THE
MIDDLE EAST**

Working Paper submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran

1. The establishment of nuclear weapons free zone as reaffirmed at the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament constitutes an important disarmament measure. The establishment of such zones enhances regional and global peace and security, and reinforces the non-proliferation regime as well. The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in Latin America, the South Pacific, Africa, South-East Asia and Central Asia are all effective initiatives towards the attainment of a world entirely free from nuclear weapons.
2. The establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East has been the long-standing goal of the people of the region. Iran first initiated the idea of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone as an important disarmament measure in the region of the Middle East in 1974, followed by the resolution of the General Assembly. The establishment of such a zone in the Middle East will strengthen the security and stability in the region.
3. The resolution on the Middle East, as reaffirmed in the Final Document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference, is an essential element of the package of agreements in the 1995 NPT

Review and Extension Conference and of the basis on which the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was indefinitely extended without vote in 1995.

4. The 2000 Review Conference called upon all States in the Middle East, without exception, to accede to the Treaty as soon as possible and to place their nuclear facilities under the full scope of IAEA safeguards. The Conference also emphasized the importance of Zionist Regime's accession to the Non-proliferation Treaty and placement of all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive IAEA safeguards.

Israeli clandestine nuclear program, the main obstacle to NWFZ in the region

5. However, despite repeated calls by the international community demonstrated in the 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, related resolutions of the General assembly as well as of IAEA and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, The Zionist regime has neither acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons nor has it placed its unwarranted nuclear facilities under full scope of IAEA safeguards. It has not even declared its intention to accede to the Treaty. It should be underlined that this Regime is the only non-party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in the Middle East region. That regime's clandestine nuclear activities, with the support of the United States, seriously threaten both regional and international peace and security, and endanger the non-proliferation regime.

6. The 2000 NPT Review Conference recalling the obligation of all States Parties under articles I, II and III of the treaty, called upon all States Parties not to cooperate or give assistance in the nuclear or nuclear-related field to States not parties to the Treaty in a manner that would assist them in manufacturing nuclear weapons or any other nuclear explosive device. Unfortunately, the inaction imposed upon the Security Council over the past several decades in addressing the well-documented nuclear weapons programme implemented by the Zionist regime, has given the audacity to that regime to explicitly acknowledge possession of nuclear weapons. That acknowledgment was condemned by the Non-Aligned Movement in the statement issued on 5 February 2007. This Preparatory Committee and the 2010 Review

Conference should also condemn this Regime for its defiance of international calls and urge it to immediately stop its clandestine nuclear activities. Moreover, the Security Council should fulfill its Charter-based responsibility to address such a clear and serious threat to international peace and security and take prompt and appropriate actions accordingly.

7. An agreed plan of action for the universality of the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, especially in the Middle East, should be on the agenda of all States Parties to the Treaty, in particular nuclear-weapon States. There should be greater pressure on the Zionist regime to accede to the Treaty promptly and without condition, and to place all its facilities under the full scope of IAEA safeguards without delay. Unconditional adherence by that regime to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the conclusion of a full-scope safeguard agreement with IAEA would, undoubtedly, lead to the early realization of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

8. The Islamic Republic of Iran, in implementing its obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and specifically articles II and III of the Treaty, reaffirms that all its nuclear facilities are devoted to peaceful purposes and are under the full scope of IAEA safeguards of the IAEA. Furthermore, to contribute to the realization of a world free from weapons of mass destruction, particularly in the Middle East, Iran has signed the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty as well as ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention, Biological Weapons Convention and the 1925 Geneva Protocol. It is a matter of regret that while no practical measure is taken to contain the threat of such Regime as the real source of nuclear danger in the Middle East, the Islamic Republic of Iran as a State Party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the initiator of the idea of the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zone in Middle East is under tremendous pressure of a few States to renounce its inalienable rights for peaceful use of nuclear energy.

9. The Islamic Republic of Iran is of the opinion that, pending the realization of the nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region, no country of the region must acquire nuclear weapons or permit the stationing, on their territories or on territories under its control, of nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices, and they should refrain from actions that run counter to both the letter and the spirit of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of nuclear weapons and other international

resolutions and documents relating to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

10. 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 Review Conference of 2010 should establish a subsidiary body under Main Committee II to consider this issue and make concrete recommendations on urgent and practical steps for the implementation of the Resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference and contained in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference. The Review Conference should also make recommendations on the measures to force the Zionist regime to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and place its unwarranted nuclear facilities under the full scope of IAEA safeguards to pave the way for the establishment of the nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East region.

11. Due to importance of the Middle East region and in order to strengthen the realization of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East as well as the agreements of the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference and the Article VII of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Islamic Republic of Iran is of the view that all State Parties to the Treaty particularly the nuclear-weapon States, as the sponsors of the 1995 Middle East Resolution, should continue to report through the United Nations Secretariat to the President of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty as well as to the Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee meetings to be held in advance of the Conference.

12. The upcoming Review Conference should also establish a standing committee to monitor the implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East as well as the agreements of the 2000 NPT Conference in this regard and to report to the States parties to the Treaty.
