

Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Nuclear issues in the Middle East

Working paper submitted by China

1. Regional security and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, are closely interrelated. The parties concerned should therefore all act in a spirit of reconciliation and cooperation to promote the Middle East peace process and to enhance security and stability in the Middle East region.
2. China maintains that focused efforts should be made to promote the establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, in accordance with resolutions of previous sessions of the General Assembly, the resolution on the Middle East of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and relevant provisions of the Final Documents of the 2000 and 2010 NPT Review Conferences. In particular, concerted efforts should be made to put into effect the practical measures for the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, endorsed by all parties to the 2010 NPT Review Conference.
3. Israel should accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as a non-nuclear-weapon State and place all its nuclear facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards. The countries concerned in that region should, as the earliest opportunity, sign and ratify comprehensive safeguards agreements with IAEA and be urged to accede to the additional protocol for the application of safeguards. All those measures are of great importance for strengthening the international nuclear non-proliferation regime and promoting the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.
4. The parties concerned should pursue a peaceful solution to the Iranian nuclear problem through diplomatic negotiations. Political and diplomatic efforts should be maintained and intensified, with a view to finding a solution to that problem which is long-term, comprehensive and appropriate, and based on the principles of gradualism and reciprocity.

