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

30 April 2012
English
Original: Arabic

First session

Vienna, 30 April-11 May 2012

Implementation of the 1995 resolution concerning the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East

Working paper submitted by Libya

1. Libya affirms the utmost importance of the resolution concerning the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East that was adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. That resolution is organically and legally linked to the Treaty, in that its adoption was part of a package whereby it was agreed to indefinitely extend the Treaty. It is therefore a matter of deep concern that no serious attempt has been made to implement the resolution, despite the lengthy period of time that has elapsed since its adoption.

2. Libya affirms that swift implementation of the resolution and establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East will have a decisive impact on maintaining security and stability in the region and the world, and represents the only practical means of ensuring the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in the Middle East. If the goal is to be achieved, a non-selective and unbiased international course will have to be adopted, together with a comprehensive regional approach that will guarantee security for all parties in the region.

3. Security and stability in the Middle East will not be achieved as long as Israel possesses nuclear weapons. On 11 December 2006, the Prime Minister of Israel admitted that his country possesses nuclear weapons. Israel is the only State in the Middle East that has neither acceded to nor announced its intention to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). With a view to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East, the international community and its institutions and, in particular, the Depositary States, are demanding that pressure should be brought to bear on Israel to accede to the Treaty without delay as a non-nuclear-weapon Party, place all its nuclear facilities and activities under the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) comprehensive safeguards system, and renounce its nuclear weapons in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolution 487 (1981).



4. It was affirmed at the 2000 NPT Review Conference that the resolution on the Middle East that was adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference remains valid until its goals and objectives are achieved. The resolution was an essential element of the basis on which NPT had been indefinitely extended in 1995. That point was reaffirmed by the 2010 Review Conference. Yet Israel has continued to defy the international community by not acceding to NPT and refusing to place all their nuclear facilities under the IAEA comprehensive safeguards system. That is a source of the most serious concern and has a negative impact on regional and international peace and security.

5. Libya recalls that in recent years the United Nations General Assembly has repeatedly adopted by consensus a resolution calling for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East and has continued to support the resolution entitled “The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East”, which was adopted at the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly as resolution 66/61. That resolution expresses concern about the threats posed by the proliferation of nuclear weapons to the security and stability of the Middle East region. It emphasizes the need for all parties directly concerned seriously to consider taking the steps required for the implementation of the proposal to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East, and, as a means of promoting that objective, invites the countries concerned to adhere to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and place all their nuclear activities under Agency safeguards.

6. Libya demands that the international community should take the following practical measures towards the establishment of the nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East:

- Inviting the international community to pledge to implement the resolution on the Middle East that was adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference, affirming the importance of convening the 2012 conference and adopting an effective mechanism to ensure its success;
- Inducing Israel to accede unconditionally to NPT as a non-nuclear-weapon Party, placing all its nuclear installations and facilities under the IAEA comprehensive safeguards system;
- Obtaining assurances from nuclear-weapon States that they will make a formal commitment to honour the undertaking given pursuant to article I of the Treaty not to provide it with assistance in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy before it has acceded to NPT and placed its nuclear installations and facilities under the IAEA comprehensive safeguards system.