

**Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review  
Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the  
Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

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**Steps to promote the achievement of a nuclear-weapon free zone in the  
Middle East and the realisation of the goals and objectives of the 1995  
Resolution on the Middle East**

**Report submitted by Australia**

Australia fully supports the establishment of an effectively verifiable Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. Australia has joined the consensus every year at the UN General Assembly in support of the resolution calling for the establishment of a nuclear weapon-free zone in the Middle East freely arrived at among states of the region.

A key concern in the Middle East was Iraq's long-standing refusal to cooperate with UNMOVIC and the IAEA to achieve full implementation of UN Security Council resolutions and Iraq's obligations under the NPT. Resolution of the significant questions about Iraq's NPT compliance during Saddam Hussein's regime is now finally possible, but only after a coalition of over fifty countries joined to help disarm Iraq of weapons of mass destruction.

The Additional Protocol on strengthened IAEA safeguards offers Middle East states an important confidence building opportunity. Australia recently approached Middle East states urging their early conclusion of the Additional Protocol.

Iran has now revealed an extensive nuclear program raising serious questions about its nuclear intentions. Australia is concerned about Iran's intention to develop proliferation-sensitive nuclear technology, such as uranium enrichment, especially given the tensions which exist in the Middle East region. Australia has urged Iran to conclude and fully apply an Additional Protocol as a means of helping allay concerns about its nuclear intentions.

While countries of the Middle East would need to take the initiative in developing a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, membership of and adherence to existing treaties and instruments would be a step towards this aim. Australia contributes to the goal of such a zone through its efforts to achieve universal membership of the NPT, CTBT, BWC, CWC, and our active support for the International Code of Conduct (ICOC) against the proliferation of ballistic missiles.

Australia is active in efforts to achieve universal application of nuclear safeguards measures - in the Middle East and elsewhere.