
2010 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 realization of the goals and objectives of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East

Report submitted by Australia to the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

1. Australia fully supports the establishment of an effectively verifiable Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.
2. Australia is ready to join constructive efforts at the 2010 Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) by States parties to advance implementation of the 1995 resolution calling for such a zone, including by supporting the proposal to convene a conference of all regional States on all issues covered by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference resolution calling for a verifiable Middle East zone free of all weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems.
3. Australia annually supports the General Assembly resolution calling for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East freely arrived at among States of the region.
4. Australia has also joined consensus on the annual resolution entitled “Application of IAEA safeguards in the Middle East” of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Australia actively supports efforts to achieve universal application of nuclear safeguards measures — in the Middle East and elsewhere.
5. Australia supports universality of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and consistently calls upon Israel — the only regional State not to have joined the Treaty — to accede to it as a non-nuclear-weapon State.
6. Australia believes that meaningful progress towards a Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction is unlikely to be achieved unless all regional States are in full compliance with their existing non-proliferation and disarmament obligations. It urges the Islamic Republic of Iran to comply with the five Security Council resolutions which require the suspension of its enrichment-related activities



as a means of returning the Islamic Republic of Iran to compliance with its safeguards obligations under article III of NPT. Australia calls upon the Islamic Republic of Iran to provide the cooperation required by IAEA to allow the Agency to resolve all outstanding issues and provide credible assurances that the Islamic Republic of Iran does not have further undeclared facilities.

7. Similarly, full transparency and cooperation with IAEA by the Syrian Arab Republic, allowing IAEA to provide credible assurances that the Syrian Arab Republic is not undertaking any undeclared nuclear activities, would make a strong contribution to regional stability.

8. Universal membership of and adherence to existing treaties and instruments would greatly facilitate the establishment of a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. Australia is contributing to this objective through its efforts to achieve universal membership of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the Biological Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention, and its active support for the International Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation.

9. The Additional Protocol on strengthened IAEA safeguards offers Middle East States an important confidence-building opportunity. Australia encourages the adoption by all States of an Additional Protocol with IAEA, without delay or preconditions. Stronger safeguards are in the interests of all countries if they can prevent the emergence of more nuclear-weapons-capable States.

10. Australia acknowledges the difficulty of achieving disarmament and non-proliferation goals without concurrent efforts to address the underlying political tensions that drive international conflicts. It urges all States parties to work to secure a regional political environment that is conducive to disarmament, non-proliferation and the creation of a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.
