

General Conference

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Text of Communication dated 2 September 2010 received from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq

The Secretariat received a communication dated 2 September 2010 from the Permanent Mission of Iraq, attaching the text of a Position Paper on “Establishment of a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in the Middle East”.

The communication and, as requested therein, its attachment, are herewith circulated.



No: 3/43

NOTE VERBAL

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Vienna presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and has the honour to requests the esteemed Agency to distribute the attachment Position Paper on the "Establishment a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone in the Middle East" as an official document of the fifty-fourth regular session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency to be held from 20-24 September.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the IAEA the assurances of its highest consideration.



Enclosure: Position Paper.

Permanent Missions accredited
to the IAEA/ Vienna.

Establishment of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (NWFZ) in the Middle East

1. Iraq recognizes that the establishment of NWFZs is a step that strengthens endeavours towards nuclear disarmament and also strengthens the security of the countries concerned and brings us closer to the main objective of achieving, and maintaining, international peace and security. On the basis of this principle, Iraq has supported and participated in the efforts made to establish a NWFZ in various geographical regions, particularly in the Middle East. A prerequisite of any attempt to establish a NWFZ in the Middle East must be basic steps that include Israel embarking on nuclear disarmament, its accession to the NPT and the placement of its nuclear installations under the IAEA comprehensive safeguards regime.
2. NWFZs are an important pillar in confidence-building measures at the regional level, and can be a decisive tool in strengthening nuclear non-proliferation and in strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime. NWFZs can also be a tool for expressing the values adhered to and promoted by many in the spheres of nuclear disarmament, weapons control and non-proliferation.
3. Iraq affirms its firm belief in the importance of the establishment of a NWFZ in the Middle East, a position that it has demonstrated in practice through its support for the United Nations resolutions issued by the General Assembly under the item "Establishment of a NWFZ in the Middle East". Iraq believes that the Middle East is in its current situation of not being free from nuclear weapons because of non-verification of the military capabilities of Israeli nuclear installations, while all the nuclear installations of the States of the region, except Israel, are subject to IAEA control.
4. Iraq calls for implementation of Security Council resolution 487 (1981), which requested Israel urgently to place its nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards and paragraph 14 of resolution 687 (1991), which requested the establishment of a zone free from weapons of mass destruction and nuclear weapons in the Middle East.
5. Iraq stresses the Arab demand regarding the importance of implementing the objectives of the 1995 and 2000 NPT conferences, as well as of all States Party to the Treaty taking the necessary actions to implement the resolution, as confirmed at the latest conference, which also reaffirmed the full commitment of the five nuclear States to the 1995 resolution on the Middle East.
6. Also, Iraq attaches great importance to the 2010 Review Conference's emphasis on the process leading to full implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East and implementation of practical steps, including:
 - (a) The UN Secretary-General and the co-sponsors of the Middle East resolution, in consultation with the States of the region, will convene a conference in 2012 to be attended by all States of the Middle East on the establishment of a Middle East free of nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by the States of the region, and with the full support and engagement of the nuclear-weapon States. The 2012 conference shall take as its reference the 1995 resolution.
 - (b) Appointment by the UN Secretary-General and the co-sponsors of the 1995 resolution, in consultation with the States of the region, of a facilitator, with a mandate to support implementation of the 1995 resolution by conducting consultations with the States of the region in that regard and undertaking preparations for the convening of the 2012 conference, and who will report to the 2015 Review Conference and its Preparatory Committee meetings.
 - (c) The taking of additional steps aimed at supporting the implementation of the 1995 resolution, including that the IAEA, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and other relevant international organizations be requested to prepare background documentation for the

2012 conference regarding the necessary modalities to establish a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, taking into account work previously undertaken and experience gained.

- (d) Ensuring parallel progress, in substance and timing, in the process leading to achieving total and complete elimination of all weapons of mass destruction in the region, nuclear, chemical and biological.