

# The Declaration of the Gulf WMDFZ Initiative by the GCC Secretary-General<sup>1</sup>



*GCC Secretary-General Abdul Rahman Al-Attiyah*

On December 18, 2005 on the eve of convening the twenty-sixth GCC annual summit, whose proceedings started on December 19 in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the UAE, the Secretary-General of the GCC, Mr. Abdul Rahman Al-Attiyah, held a press conference to announce the details of what he described as his "personal initiative", whose aim is to conclude an accord between the nine states of the Gulf region - the GCC states together with Iran, Iraq and Yemen. The objective of the accord is to guarantee that this region remains free of nuclear weapons and WMD and to interact positively with the international community, which is struggling against the proliferation of WMD.

## The Content of the Initiative of the GCC Secretary-General

"I have made a call today on the necessity of reaching an accord between the GCC states, Iran, Iraq, and Yemen. The objective of this is to make the region free of nuclear and

other WMD weapons. An accord of this kind may be conducive to a comprehensive accord involving all Arab and non-Arab countries in the Middle East - by non-Arab countries, I mean Israel."

"We do not want our region to be an arena for a nuclear arms race. The worries of the Gulf States as regards the Iranian nuclear program are real. This is especially so because the nuclear reactor of Bushehr lies at the heart of the region. Operating the reactor may entail, in case any defect occurs in the installations, catastrophic consequences for the environment and all human life in the region." The Secretary-General said, "The solution of this problem is an accord between all the parties concerned in the region whose objective is to make the region free of all nuclear and WMD weapons. This kind of accord does not contradict the declared Iranian stance, which consists in the fact that the nuclear aspirations of Iran are devoted to peaceful purposes. This means that there is no reason for impeding an accord which will make the region free of nuclear weapons. An accord with Iran will pave the way for the international community to exercise pressure on Israel in order to make it sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty and subject its nuclear installations to inspection." He went on to say, "In the Gulf region, we do not fear the Iranian nuclear program as long as it remains limited to peaceful uses only. If the contrary is the case, the program will be unjustifiable and the issue will not rest there. We have confidence in Iran; but we do not want the Iranian nuclear reactor, which is nearer to our shores than to Tehran, to inflict on us dangers and damages. We want Iran to employ logic and reason in its handling of the issue of nuclear reactors in a way that satisfies its peaceful purposes without inflicting damage on its neighbors."

Source: Asharq Al Awsat, December 19, 2005

Agence France-Presse, December 18, 2005

<sup>1</sup> The following official statements have been translated into English by [ ] herein.