
**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 realization of the goals and objectives
of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East**

Compilation of reports

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction	2
II. Reports received from States parties	2
Algeria	2
Australia	3
Egypt	3
Jordan	6



I. Introduction

1. In the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference, which the States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons adopted by consensus on 19 May 2000, the Conference requested “all States parties, particularly the nuclear-weapon States, the States of the Middle East and other interested States, to report through the United Nations Secretariat to the President of the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, as well as to the Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee meetings to be held in advance of that Conference, on the steps that they have taken to promote the achievement of such a zone and the realization of the goals and objectives of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East. It requests that the Secretariat prepare a compilation of those reports in preparation for consideration of these matters at the Preparatory Committee meetings and the 2005 Review Conference”. (See document NPT/CONF.2000/28, Part I, “Review of the operation of the Treaty, taking into account the decisions and the resolution adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference”, section entitled “Article VII and the security of non-nuclear-weapon States”, paragraph 16 on “Regional issues”, subparagraph 7.)

2. The present compilation has been prepared by the United Nations Secretariat in response to that request. Reports have been received thus far from Algeria, Australia, Egypt and Jordan. Any additional information received will be issued as addenda to the present document.

II. Reports received from States parties

Algeria

[Original: French]
[1 April 2002]

1. Algeria believes that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone is an effective part of the consolidation of regional peace and security and contributes to the strengthening of the non-proliferation regime and the achievement of the objectives of nuclear disarmament.

2. However, because of the proximity and close ties between Africa and the Middle East, Algeria remains deeply concerned about the lack of progress in establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in this sensitive region. It therefore believes that it is essential to take concrete measures to implement the provisions of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East submitted by the three depositary States of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference. It recalls, in this respect, that the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference reaffirms the importance of this resolution and recognizes that it remains valid until the goals and objectives are achieved.

3. Algeria also endorses the position expressed by the States parties at the 2000 Review Conference calling upon Israel to accede to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and place its nuclear facilities under comprehensive International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards in order to realize the goal of universal adherence to the Treaty in the Middle East region and achieve the legitimate aspiration to the establishment of a non-nuclear zone.

4. Choosing to promote the development of research in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, Algeria acceded and committed itself to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and, in March 1996, concluded an agreement on comprehensive safeguards by virtue of which all its nuclear activities are placed under its control in accordance with article II of the Treaty.

5. Algeria has always worked in support of nuclear-weapon-free zones throughout the world; it endorses the Declaration of the Organization of African Unity on the Denuclearization of Africa and was the third African State to ratify the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (the Pelindaba Treaty). Similarly, Algeria supported the establishment of such zones in Latin America and the Caribbean, in the South Pacific and in South-East Asia by the Treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga and Bangkok, which have considerably reduced the risks of nuclear proliferation and contributed to the strengthening of international peace and security, and welcomed the efforts undertaken to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia.

6. Within the Arab Group, it sponsors the resolution entitled “The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East” submitted each year to the General Assembly, and supports the resolution entitled “Establishment of a

nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East”; similarly, it participated actively in the work of the working group on the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones at the substantive session of the Disarmament Commission in April 1999.

Australia

[Original: English]
[26 March 2002]

1. 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 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 the States of the region.

2. 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 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the Biological Weapons Convention, the Chemical Weapons Convention, and our active support for the draft International Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation.

3. Australia is active in efforts to achieve universal application of nuclear safeguards measures in the Middle East and elsewhere. Australia also calls upon all parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty to comply fully with the requirements of the Treaty.

Egypt

[Original: Arabic]
[19 March 2002]

In accordance with the request made in the Final Document of the Sixth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held in 2000, to States parties, particularly the nuclear-weapon States, the States of the Middle East and other interested States, to report

through the United Nations Secretariat to the President of the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, as well as to the chairpersons of the Preparatory Committee meetings to be held in advance of that Conference, on the steps that they have taken 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, the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt has the honour to submit this report, which sets forth a number of the steps that Egypt has taken for the achievement of such a zone.

General

The issue of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East has high priority in Egyptian policy, particularly since all the States of the Middle East region, without exception, have become parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, leaving Israel as the only State in the region that has not yet acceded to the Treaty or placed its nuclear facilities under comprehensive International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards.

This imbalance, particularly in a region like the Middle East that is beset by manifest political tensions, led the parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to adopt in 1995 a resolution on the Middle East, within the framework of the majority agreement on the extension of the Treaty and co-sponsored by the depositary States, namely the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States. The resolution contains clear and unambiguous statements affirming the importance of establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and the role of the international community in the matter. This affirmation by the Conference is contained in operative paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of the Resolution, as follows:

“*Reaffirms* the importance of the early realization of universal adherence to the Treaty, and calls upon all States of Middle East that have not yet done so, without exception, to accede to the Treaty as soon as possible and to place their nuclear facilities under full-scope International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards”;

“*Calls upon* all States in the Middle East to take practical steps in appropriate forums aimed

at making progress towards, inter alia, the establishment of an effectively verifiable Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction, nuclear, chemical and biological, and their delivery systems, and to refrain from taking any measures that preclude the achievement of this objective”;

“Calls upon all States party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and in particular the nuclear-weapon States, to extend their cooperation and to exert their utmost efforts with a view to ensuring the early establishment by regional parties of a Middle East zone free of nuclear and all other weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems”.

The United Nations Secretariat prepared a report as a document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT/CONF.2000/7), which mentioned that, since 1995, numerous States of the region had acceded to the Treaty and that thus all States of the Middle East, with the exception of Israel, were States parties to the Treaty.

This situation prompted the parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, at the Sixth Review Conference in 2000, to reaffirm the importance of the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference and to recognize that the resolution remained valid until the goals and objectives were achieved and that the resolution was an essential element of the outcome of the 1995 Conference and of the basis on which the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was indefinitely extended without a vote in 1995. Consequently, this resolution must be regarded as equivalent as regards its importance and its binding nature to the decision for the indefinite extension of the Treaty.

The Secretariat document also mentioned that all States of the region of the Middle East, with the exception of Israel, were States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and reaffirmed the importance of Israel’s accession to the non-proliferation Treaty and the placing of all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive IAEA safeguards with a view to achieving the goal of arriving at universal adherence to the Treaty in the Middle East.

In the light of this high priority that Egypt accords to the issue of establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, with a view to ridding the region of the Middle East of all weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, believing in the importance of the international community’s taking clear-cut steps to promote the achievement of such a zone, and with a view to the realization of the goals and objectives of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, Egypt has, for years, maintained a firm and steadfast policy with regard to the establishment of such a zone, which would eliminate nuclear weapons, enhance the security of all States of the region and contribute to the speedy attainment of a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East. Egyptian efforts in this matter have been concentrated at the national, regional and international levels, as follows.

I. Egyptian efforts and steps at the national level

- Egypt’s accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its signature of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba), which clearly affirms Egypt’s rejection of the nuclear option, which represents a clear threat to humanity and to peace and security in the Middle East;
- Egypt’s hosting of the ceremonies for the signature of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty on 11 April 1996, as an expression of Egypt’s commitment to eliminating nuclear weapons not only from the Middle East but from the African continent as a whole; Egypt’s hosting of the ceremonies for the signature of the Pelindaba Treaty represents the culmination of the follow-up to the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity in July 1964 in Cairo;
- Egypt’s conclusion of an agreement on comprehensive safeguards with IAEA and its placing of its two research reactors and its other nuclear facilities under comprehensive IAEA safeguards.

II. Egyptian efforts and steps at the regional level

- The accession of Egypt and all States of the Middle East to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the placing of their nuclear facilities under the comprehensive IAEA safeguards system, with the exception of Israel;
- Egypt's participation in the preparation of a draft treaty to make the region of the Middle East a region free from weapons of mass destruction, first and foremost nuclear weapons, within the framework of the League of Arab States;
- Establishment of a working group on arms control and regional security (ACRS), which emerged from the Madrid peace process on the basis of a proposal by Egypt, and a call for the inclusion on its agenda of an item on the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

III. Egyptian efforts and steps at the international level

- The announcement by President Muhammad Hosni Mubarak in April 1990 of his initiative calling for the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems from the region of the Middle East; His Excellency's announcement of his second initiative, in 1998, calling for the convening of an international conference to consider ridding the world of weapons of mass destruction, first and foremost nuclear weapons;
- Egypt's submission annually, since 1974, of a resolution to the General Assembly of the United Nations concerning the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East; this resolution has been adopted by consensus since 1980, up to the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly;
- Egypt's submission annually of a resolution to the General Assembly of the United Nations concerning the risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East and calling upon Israel, as the only State in the Middle East that has not yet become a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of

Nuclear Weapons, to accede to the Treaty without further delay; the resolution has been adopted annually by an overwhelming majority up to the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly;

- Egypt's submission annually, within the framework of the IAEA General Conference, of a resolution concerning the application of IAEA safeguards in the Middle East; the resolution has been adopted annually by consensus, up to the forty-fifth session of the General Conference;
- Egypt's ongoing and persistent efforts, within the framework of the activities of the Disarmament Commission, to promote the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East; these efforts resulted in the adoption by the Disarmament Commission, at its substantive session in April 1999 (under the chairmanship of Egypt), of guidelines for establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones and encouraging the establishment of such a zone in the Middle East.

Conclusion

Egypt will continue to follow up its efforts to achieve the goal of establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East as soon as possible, as a major step towards eliminating all weapons of mass destruction from the region. With a view to the realization of this goal, it will follow up its initiative concerning the establishment of a zone free from weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East and will continue its efforts to obtain the support of the international community in establishing such a zone and averting the threat to humanity presented by nuclear weapons, inasmuch as they are the most dangerous, destructive and genocidal of all weapons of mass destruction.

In this context, Egypt considers it necessary that all parties to the Treaty, particularly the nuclear-weapon States, shoulder their responsibilities and make all sincere efforts to realize all the goals and objectives of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East and to implement the relevant portions of the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty. It may be appropriate to begin thinking as of now of setting up a mechanism, with a specific mandate, entrusted by the Review Conference with the task of following up the implementation of this

resolution, and the recommendations made concerning it at the 2000 Review Conference, as proof of the seriousness of States' approach to and commitment to the implementation of the decisions of the Review Conference. Here emerges the special role that devolves upon the three depositary States, which are the same States that co-sponsored the resolution on the Middle East, in the implementation of this resolution. We should like to know the steps they have taken for the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

Jordan

[Original: Arabic]
[25 March 2002]

This report is submitted within the framework of the request contained in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons that all States parties to the Treaty, particularly the nuclear-weapon States, the States of the Middle East and other interested States should report through the United Nations Secretariat to the President of the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, as well as to the chairpersons of the Preparatory Committee meetings to be held in advance of that Conference, on the steps that they have taken 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.

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and has also signed the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) comprehensive safeguards agreement and the IAEA additional protocol on safeguards.

1. This serious and committed position of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan reflects full conviction of and absolute adherence to rejection of the nuclear option, particularly in the Middle East, as well as clear-cut obligations to and participation in promoting the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

2. The Jordanian Government is participating in efforts to elaborate a draft treaty making the Middle East a zone free from weapons of mass destruction,

first and foremost nuclear weapons, within the framework of the League of Arab States.

3. The Jordanian Government participates in the working group on arms control and Regional Security established by the Madrid Peace Conference and attaches importance to the inclusion on its agenda of an item concerning the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

4. The delegation of Jordan, together with other Arab delegations, annually introduces an item on the risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East in the United Nations General Assembly. The relevant resolution has, year after year, been adopted by an increasing majority, up to the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

5. The delegation of Jordan and the delegations of the other Arab States participate, within the framework of the meetings of the IAEA General Conference, in the introduction of a resolution on the application of IAEA safeguards in the Middle East, which is annually adopted by consensus.

The Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan stresses the need to implement the provisions of the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the importance of the five nuclear-weapon States' reporting on the efforts that they have made for 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.

The Middle East is a region beset by manifest tension, and the attention of the international community should be focused on laying the essential groundwork for the elimination of this tension, particularly with regard to the nuclear problem, in view of the fact that there is one State in the region, namely, Israel, that continues to possess nuclear capabilities and does not place its facilities under the comprehensive IAEA safeguards system and that this stands in the way of the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, especially as all States of the Middle East have acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

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Addendum

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
Reports received from States parties	
Canada	2
China	2
Morocco	6
Sweden	7
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	8

Reports received from States parties

Canada

[Original: English]

[4 April 2002]

1. As noted elsewhere, at the fifty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly, Canada supported the First Committee resolution on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East. While Israel maintains a policy of nuclear ambiguity, it is widely assumed to have developed a significant nuclear weapons capability. Canada has stated that it is convinced that this programme is not in the long-term interests of Israel, of regional stability and of global security. Canada has called upon Israel to accede to the Non-Proliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear-weapon State.

2. Canada has also called for full adherence and compliance with the Treaty by States parties in the region, and notes that seven States in the region have not concluded comprehensive safeguards agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency. Canada has also called upon Iraq to provide immediate, unconditional and unrestricted access to inspection teams of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC). In this regard, Canada hosted a five-week training course in May-June 2001 for inspectors attached to UNMOVIC.

3. Canada is a strong supporter of the Middle East peace process and plays a role in the multilateral aspect of this process as Chair of the Refugee Working Group. Canada has endorsed the Mitchell report and Tenet workplan as the path to ending violence and beginning negotiations between the Israelis and the Palestinians and has called upon both parties to follow the recommendations set out therein.

China

[Original: Chinese]

[7 April 2002]

China has always attached great importance to the promotion of the Middle East peace process and has actively supported the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. Pursuant to the provisions of the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the steps taken by China to promote the Middle East peace process and the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East are as follows:

I. Actively encouraging the parties concerned to promote the Middle East peace process in the spirit of reconciliation

As far as the Middle East problem is concerned, China has always taken the position of upholding justice, not seeking self-interest and basing its judgement on the rights and wrongs of the case. Proceeding from an impartial stand, China has always adopted a policy of promoting peace, and maintained that the Middle East problem should be solved in the spirit of reconciliation. During his telephone

conversation on the Middle East problem with President Mubarak in September 2001, President Jiang Zemin emphasized that “we have been persistent promoters of peace, and we believe the only right way to solve the Middle East problem is through peaceful negotiation”.

In this spirit, China has always been concerned with developments in the Middle East, truly hoped that progress can be achieved in the peace process, and been unwilling to see the results attained in the peace talks during the past 10 years come to naught. China is gravely concerned and alarmed by the heavy casualties inflicted by the continuous violence and conflicts between the Israelis and the Palestinians. China is opposed to any terrorist activities aimed at civilian populations, and supports all efforts that are conducive to relaxing tension in the region. China calls on both sides to exercise restraint and remain calm, take practical measures that will help to defuse tension, and create conditions for the early resumption of peace talks.

The core element of China’s position on resolving the Middle East problem is the spirit of reconciliation. Guided by this, China has made untiring efforts to promote the resolution of the Middle East problem. The leaders of Middle Eastern countries have expressed their appreciation for the efforts made by China to settle conflicts between the Israelis and the Palestinians, and hope China can play a bigger role in relaxing tension in the region and resuming peace talks between the Israelis and the Palestinians.

II. Using different forms of bilateral contacts to promote the resolution of the Middle East problem

China has, through various forms of bilateral contacts with the parties concerned, made substantial efforts to help the parties concerned resolve the Middle East problem peacefully. These efforts are outlined as follows:

- (1) Mediating the peace process during bilateral summit meetings with the Arabs and Israelis

Bilateral visits between China and Middle Eastern countries have been very frequent. President Arafat has visited China 14 times, President Mubarak 6 times, the new king of Jordan visited China twice after he assumed the throne, and the leaders of Israel have visited China many times. Chinese leaders have also visited the Middle East many times. In April 2000, Chinese President Jiang Zemin visited Palestine, Israel and Egypt.

China has always attached great importance to taking a mediating role during bilateral summit meetings with the parties concerned. When the Middle East peace process was making progress, China expressed its appreciation of the efforts made by the parties concerned, and encouraged them to continue the process so as to further its scope and depth. Following the abrupt increase in tension in the Middle East in September 2000, China continuously advised the parties concerned that the use of force and confrontation would only deepen mutual hatred and opposition, while dialog and negotiation were the right way to resolve disputes. China called on both sides to exercise restraint, actively cooperate with the mediating efforts of the international community, cease the present conflict and resume peace negotiations. During the meetings of President Jiang Zemin with Jordanian King Abdallah II and Egyptian President Mubarak in January 2000, the discussion focused on the Middle

East question, explored various options for the restoration of peace in the Middle East, and tried to promote early resolution of the Middle East problem.

- (2) Striving to relax tension in the Middle East through telephone conversations and written correspondence

Whenever major negative developments have occurred in the Middle East, Chinese leaders always engage in telephone conversations with leaders in the region, urging them to exercise restraint, prevent escalation of the conflict, and maintain stability in the region. Especially since the recent deterioration of the situation in the Middle East, President Jiang Zemin has conducted many telephone conversations with leaders of the Middle Eastern countries. Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan has also repeatedly made telephone calls to the Palestinian and Israeli leaders, explaining to them the views of China on the current situation in the Middle East, expressing deep concern regarding the continued deterioration of security in the region, calling on the two sides to exercise restraint and take effective measures to prevent further deterioration of the situation, and create conditions conducive to the early resumption of peace talks. Chinese leaders have also made use of their correspondence with leaders of the Middle East to explain the position of China and to mediate between the parties concerned.

- (3) Calling for a peaceful resolution of the Middle East problem by making clear the Chinese Government position through such means as statements by official spokesmen

The Chinese Foreign Ministry has been closely following developments in the Middle East situation, and it has made clear the position of the Chinese Government on the current Middle East situation through statements made by its spokesman at appropriate times. It has called for all the parties to renounce military means and to seek a negotiated solution of the Middle East issue. Moreover, on the occasions of the bilateral contacts with non-Middle East countries, China has tried to talk with the countries concerned with a view to bringing about a solution of the Middle East issue through different channels. When President Bush of the United States visited China in February 2002, the Chinese and American sides both covered Middle East issues during their bilateral talks and press conferences, in the hope that the relevant big Powers could create a favourable atmosphere for an early and peaceful resolution of the Middle East issue.

III. Under the auspices of the United Nations, seeking to solve the violent conflict between the Israelis and Palestinians and facilitate the Middle East peace process

China has consistently advocated and supported an active role for the United Nations, in particular the Security Council, in resolving the Middle East issue, and the fulfilment of their mandates under the Charter of the United Nations in quelling the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and maintaining the peace and security of the Middle East region. China holds that a negotiated political solution of the Israeli-Palestinian issues through peaceful means should be achieved in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and the principle of "land for peace" established during the Madrid conference. Moreover, the effective implementation of the agreements by the parties concerned and the understandings among them is a key precondition for building mutual confidence and stabilizing the situation so as to move towards a lasting peace.

The Chinese Government has made its own efforts to promote the Middle East peace process and put an end to the Israeli-Palestinian violent conflict. China has actively supported, joined in the consensus on or voted for the resolutions on the Middle East issue adopted by successive sessions of the General Assembly, and, during the discussion in the Security Council, the draft resolution sponsored by the group of the Non-Aligned Movement on sending United Nations military observers. China has also participated in the consultations of successive emergency special sessions of the General Assembly on the Middle East issue and voted for the relevant resolutions. China has always supported and actively participated in the efforts of the United Nations to resolve the Middle East issue. Over the years, China has continued to provide contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and has tried its best to help the Palestinian refugees. On March 12, 2002, the Security Council adopted resolution 1397 concerning the Middle East; China actively participated in adopting the resolution and voted in favour of it. China has also called on Israel to implement unconditionally Security Council resolution 1402, fully withdraw its troops from Palestinian areas and resolve the issues through peaceful means.

IV. Supporting the efforts to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East

China has consistently supported the efforts by the countries in the areas concerned to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone on the basis of voluntary consultations. In the statement issued by China when it acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as early as 1992, China solemnly called on “All nuclear weapon states [to] commit themselves to supporting the proposition of establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones and respect the status of nuclear-weapon-free zone by assuming appropriate obligations”. We maintain that Israel should accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and place all its nuclear facilities under the comprehensive safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency, thus realizing the goal of universal adherence to the Treaty by all the countries in the Middle East.

China endorses the provision of Article 7 of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons which states, “nothing in this Treaty affects the right of any group of States to conclude regional treaties in order to assure the total absence of nuclear weapons in their respective territories”. China also supports resolution 49/71 adopted by the General Assembly in 1994 on establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, and the relevant provisions concerning a nuclear-weapon-free zone in that region in the “Decision on the Middle East Issue” by the NPT Review Conference in 1995. China is of the opinion that establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones is conducive to strengthening the international regime of nuclear non-proliferation. It also believes that there will be greater risks of nuclear proliferation in those areas where the situation is tense. China has always held that establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East can contribute to relaxing tensions in that region and giving impetus to resolving the Middle East issue. Therefore, China has given clear support to the proposition of establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East ever since the proposition was first made.

The Security Council of the United Nations has adopted several resolutions calling for establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, which China has always supported by voting in favour of them. Meanwhile, China has also

worked at the bilateral level to actively promote the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. At high-level meetings between the Chinese leaders and the leaders of various countries in the Middle East, China has commended the efforts made by all countries in establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region and has consistently adhered to its clear position of supporting the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone there. Together with the rest of the international community, China is ready to continue making its efforts and contributing to the achievement of peace in the Middle East and an early establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in that region.

Morocco

[Original: French]

[3 April 2002]

1. Morocco acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in 1970 and fully endorses its principles and purposes.
2. Pursuant to article III of the Treaty, Morocco concluded a safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in 1975, even though it has no nuclear capability.
3. Morocco was one of the first countries to call for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, because it considers the existence of such a zone to be not only a necessary measure to prevent proliferation and insecurity in the region but also an international goal and a factor for building global peace and security.
4. The Kingdom of Morocco has consistently supported the adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations of the two resolutions entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East" (A/RES/39/54) and "The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East" (A/RES/52/41).
5. Morocco has signed the Treaty on the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Africa (Pelindaba Treaty) and strongly supports the establishment of such zones where they do not exist.
6. Within the League of Arab States, Morocco is taking part in the development of technical and legal mechanisms for establishing a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.
7. Within IAEA, Morocco is actively promoting the application of the Agency's safeguards regime throughout the Middle East region, considering it to be an international security measure which must involve all States.
8. Morocco encourages all States in the Middle East region, including Israel, to conclude general safeguards agreements with IAEA, as an important step towards creating a climate of confidence among the States of the region and a measure preliminary to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.
9. Morocco has contributed to promoting confidence-building measures between the States parties to the conflict in the Middle East, inter alia, by taking part in the

activities of the multilateral working group responsible for regional security and disarmament issues in the Middle East.

10. The establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East region requires that the only State in the region that is not yet a party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, namely Israel, should be able to accede to it and place its nuclear facilities under the IAEA safeguards regime.

11. The Kingdom of Morocco is taking sustained action at both the regional and the international level to make all States of the region aware of the need to commit themselves to the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

12. The Kingdom of Morocco continues to reiterate its call to the nuclear Powers, particularly the depositaries of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the international community and the international organizations to assume their respective responsibilities with regard to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East region.

Sweden

[Original: English]
[5 April 2002]

The establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone, prevention of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and application of IAEA safeguards

1. After the 2000 Review Conference, during the fifty-fifth and fifty-sixth sessions of the United Nations General Assembly, Sweden voted in favour of the resolution calling for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East (resolutions 55/30 and 56/21). This resolution calls upon all countries of the region that have not done so, pending the establishment of the zone, to agree to place their nuclear activities under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards.

2. Sweden also voted in favour of the resolution entitled "The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East" (resolutions 55/36 and 56/27). This resolution reaffirms the importance of Israel's accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the placement of all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive IAEA safeguards, in realizing the goal of universal adherence to the Treaty in the Middle East.

Security Council resolution 687 (1991), and in particular paragraph 14

3. In 1991, the Security Council set up a Special Commission to investigate the extensive Iraqi programmes on weapons of mass destruction. This task is now taken over by the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) as provided for in Security Council resolution 1284 (1999). In 1999, the Secretary-General of the United Nations appointed Dr. Hans Blix of Sweden to be the Commission's Executive Chairman.

The Conference on Disarmament

4. In February 2002, the Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ms. Anna Lindh, made a statement in the Conference on Disarmament and called upon all States remaining outside the Non-Proliferation Treaty to accede to the Treaty as non-nuclear-weapon States and to place their facilities under comprehensive safeguards agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

5. The Foreign Minister also stated that Iraq has not fulfilled its obligations and still refuses to allow UNMOVIC access. Ms. Lindh called upon Iraq to comply with its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and resolution 1284 (1999) to allow the international community to verify that there are no weapons of mass destruction in the country. She went on to state that the Additional Protocol to the IAEA Safeguards Agreement had been developed as a reaction to the clandestine nuclear weapons programme in Iraq. It is a major accomplishment and will help build trust that all States comply with their non-proliferation commitments. Sweden has completed the ratification procedure and the Protocol will enter into force as soon as the remaining few European Union countries have ratified as planned. Ms. Lindh called upon all States to conclude additional protocol agreements with IAEA.

Middle East peace process

6. Sweden has made several efforts to promote the Middle East peace process. In spring 2000, Sweden hosted talks between the parties concerning final status issues. The results were later used in the Camp David negotiations and in the Taba negotiations. During the Swedish Presidency of the European Union in spring 2001, promoting peace in the Middle East was a priority. The Swedish Prime Minister has visited the region and the Swedish Foreign Minister has visited the region twice, in close coordination with the European Union.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

[Original: English]
[5 April 2002]

1. The United Kingdom has consistently supported resolutions in the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly calling for the establishment of a Middle East nuclear-weapon-free zone. The United Kingdom also supports the First Committee resolution on the risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East. In this respect we continue to call upon Israel to accede to the Non-Proliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear-weapon State and to conclude an associated full-scope Safeguards Agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). We have recently reiterated these messages to Israeli officials, most recently in Jerusalem last June and in London last month.

2. One of our greatest concerns in the region is Iraq's long-standing failure to comply with its United Nations disarmament and monitoring obligations and cooperate with inspectors of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) and IAEA. The United Kingdom will remain at the forefront of international efforts to secure full, accurate disclosures of Iraq's illicit ballistic missile, nuclear, chemical and biological weapons programmes. We

believe that the international community cannot afford to ignore this threat. Rigorous United Nations inspections would give the international community welcome assurance that Iraq's programmes no longer pose a threat to regional and global security.

3. The United Kingdom has also taken steps with other countries in the region to establish the conditions for a zone free of weapons of mass destruction. Together with our European Union partners, we have carried out extensive lobbying activity to secure adherence by States in the Middle East to key non-proliferation agreements. Since the last Review Conference of the Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, we have lobbied States in the region on the question of ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention and the IAEA Additional Protocol.

4. We also recognize the impact that the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians has on international efforts to create a weapons-of-mass-destruction-free zone in the region. The United Kingdom is committed to efforts to move the Middle East peace process forward. We are actively engaged in efforts to end the violence, build confidence and resume talks based on Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 1397 (2002) and the principle of "land for peace".

**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 realization of the goals and objectives
of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East**

Compilation of reports

Addendum

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
Reports received from States parties	
Saudi Arabia	2
Tunisia	2

Reports received from States parties

Saudi Arabia

[Original: Arabic]
[8 April 2002]

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia affirms its strong commitment to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and expresses deep concern at Israel's obstinate refusal to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, thus effectively preventing the establishment of such a zone.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is of the view that the arrangements for the establishment the nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East which are advocated by United Nations resolutions require Israel, as a State which possesses nuclear facilities and a nuclear stockpile, to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, place all its nuclear facilities under the comprehensive safeguards regime of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and dismantle its entire stockpile of nuclear weapons.

Israel is the only State in the Middle East which has yet to accede to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, and it must do so if the Middle East region is to become a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is of the view that the United Nations represents the appropriate framework for serious talks that will allow all the States concerned in the Middle East to take collective action for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

Tunisia

[Original: French]
[10 April 2002]

1. Tunisia has always demonstrated its attachment to the principles of disarmament in general and nuclear disarmament in particular. It believes that nuclear-weapon-free zones play a major part in strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime and contribute to the total elimination of all nuclear weapons. On the basis of this position:

- On 26 February 1970, Tunisia acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.
 - Tunisia signed a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on 24 February 1989 and ratified it on 12 February 1990. Negotiations are under way for the signing of an additional protocol to that Agreement.
 - Tunisia signed a Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in 1996.
 - It has also signed the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba) and is gratified that the Antarctic Treaty and the Treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga and Bangkok, together with the Treaty of Pelindaba, are continuing to help rid the hemisphere and adjacent areas of the presence of nuclear weapons. In this context, Tunisia welcomes the measures taken with a view to concluding further treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones.
 - Tunisia is one of the sponsors of the resolution submitted annually to the General Assembly by Egypt, on behalf of the Group of Arab States, on the risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East.
 - Tunisia supports the annual General Assembly resolution on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East.
 - At the 1999 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission, Tunisia played an active part in the working group on the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, which adopted by consensus a report calling for, inter alia, the establishment of such a zone in the Middle East.
2. Considering the importance for international peace and security of stability in the region of the Middle East, Tunisia remains concerned at the lack of progress in establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and in the implementation of the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

That resolution is an integral part of the decision on the indefinite extension of the Treaty.

3. Despite the accession of all the countries of the region without exception to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, Israel, a nuclear-weapon State, remains the only country that refuses to accede to the Treaty and unconditionally to subject all its nuclear facilities to comprehensive IAEA safeguards. The position taken by Israel is an obstacle to disarmament efforts in general and to the establishment of a lasting peace in the Middle East. It is reflected in the excessive militarization pursued by Israel, which also possesses other weapons of mass destruction.

4. It is incumbent upon all States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, particularly the nuclear-weapon States, to put their commitments into practice in order to achieve the goals and objectives of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East and give effect to the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

**Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review
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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**

Compilation of reports

Addendum

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
Reports received from States parties.	2
United States of America.	2



Reports received from States parties

United States of America

[Original: English]
[8 April 2002]

The United States of America welcomes the opportunity to provide information on steps it has taken to promote the environment necessary to encourage nations to establish an effectively verifiable Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction and the realization of the goals and objectives of the 1995 NPT resolution on the Middle East. In order to promote the environment necessary for achieving an effectively verifiable Middle East zone free of nuclear and all other weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, the United States has focused on three objectives: (1) Supporting the Middle East peace process; (2) ensuring that States parties are in compliance with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT); and (3) strengthening other international non-proliferation treaties and regimes.

1. *Support for the Middle East peace process.* Achievement of a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in the Middle East remains a key United States foreign policy goal. The United States believes that attainment of this goal will in turn facilitate dialogue on the vast array of complex issues that surround the establishment of a regional zone free of all weapons of mass destruction. President Bush and Secretary Powell have articulated an American vision of an eventual Palestinian State alongside Israel, at peace with each other and within secure and recognized borders. This political settlement would be negotiated between Israel and the Palestinians. The United States vision for the region is reflected most recently in United Nations Security Council resolution 1397 (2002) of 12 March 2002, sponsored by the United States and reaffirmed by other world leaders including Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah, and remains consistent with Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973).

Furthermore, the United States welcomed the Arab League's endorsement of Saudi Arabia's vision of a negotiated settlement and full normalization with Israel. President Bush recently sent General Anthony Zinni (retired) to the region for his third trip, this time to put a ceasefire in place and help the parties begin implementation of the Tenet security work plan as first step towards full implementation of the Mitchell Committee recommendations and the resumption of a political process. That political process is also anchored to Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), and the principles of the 1991 Madrid peace conference. The President has made clear he is committed to working with United States partners in the region and around the world in pursuit of these goals. On 4 April, President Bush announced he was sending Secretary Powell to the Middle East for consultations with regional leaders.

2. *Ensuring that all countries comply with the NPT.* An array of nuclear non-proliferation challenges exist in the Middle East. At the 2000 NPT Review Conference, the United States expressed concern regarding non-compliance with the Treaty. There is little hope of, and even less utility in, establishing an agreement to create a zone free of weapons of mass destruction if we cannot ensure that nations implement and uphold agreements to which they are party. Non-compliance issues are our highest priority and need to be addressed directly since they affect the core substance of the NPT and continue to bear directly on the prospects of attaining a zone in the Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction. In fact, the entire effort surrounding arms control agreements is brought into question by unchallenged violations. Because it takes arms control seriously, the United States cannot ignore violations of the NPT, now or in the future. All NPT parties need to act with resolve in response to any such challenge to the Treaty.

The Iraqi nuclear weapon programme violated article II of the NPT. Its construction of secret facilities, including a facility for nuclear weapon development and assembly, contributed to its violation of article II. Iraq's failure to apply safeguards to the nuclear material used in its nuclear weapons programme also constituted a violation of article III of the NPT, which requires that safeguards be applied "with a view to preventing diversion of nuclear energy from peaceful purposes to nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices". Security Council resolution 707 (1991), of 15 August 1991, concluded that Iraq's non-compliance with its obligations under its safeguards agreement constitutes a violation of its commitments as a party to the NPT. Subsequent Security Council resolutions have reaffirmed this resolution.

In his January 2002 State of the Union address, President Bush stated: "The Iraqi regime has plotted to develop anthrax, and nerve gas, and nuclear weapons for over a decade. This is a regime that has used poison gas to murder thousands of its own citizens — leaving the bodies of mothers huddled over their dead children. This is a regime that agreed to international inspections — then kicked out the inspectors. This is a regime that has something to hide from the civilized world."

In his October 2001 letter to the President of the United Nations Security Council, IAEA Director General ElBaradei stated that, lacking inspectors in Iraq, the Agency "... is not able at present to provide any assurance that Iraq is in compliance with its obligations under these [Security Council] resolutions. Clearly, the longer the suspension of resolution-related inspections lasts, the more difficult it will be and the more time will be required for the Agency to re-establish a level of knowledge comparable to that achieved at the end of 1998."

The United States will continue to press its concerns about Iraq and will work to facilitate an atmosphere of security and stability in the region. In pursuing these objectives, the United States has and will continue to work with the Security Council to:

- Adopt a new Goods Review List (GRL) and associated implementation procedures that will focus sanctions on items of military use that would contribute most to Iraq's efforts to rearm; and
- Work for full, unconditional and immediate Iraqi compliance with all applicable Security Council resolutions, including active cooperation with United Nations-mandated weapons inspection and monitoring teams.

The United States is also concerned about other NPT parties in the Middle East region whose ostensible commitments to the NPT are belied by their covert programmes to acquire a nuclear weapon capability. We urge all NPT parties to avoid nuclear cooperation with these countries and underscore the absolute importance of abiding by their Treaty obligations.

Other United States actions to promote compliance with the NPT in the Middle East and elsewhere include supporting the strengthening of IAEA safeguards, the negotiation and entry into force of Additional Safeguards Protocols, and the adoption of NPT safeguards agreements. Most NPT States parties in the Middle East have brought into force the required full-scope safeguards agreement with IAEA, and one State party has brought into force an Additional Protocol. However, several countries in the region have still not concluded the safeguards agreements with IAEA required by the NPT, and it is essential that each do so as soon as possible.

3. *Other efforts to strengthen non-proliferation treaties and regimes.* The United States continues to encourage the creation of a regional environment that allows for broader acceptance by all Middle East States of multilateral non-proliferation and disarmament norms and international standards, including:

- promoting universal adherence to the NPT;
- encouraging entry into force of IAEA full-scope safeguards agreements and adoption of IAEA Additional Protocols;
- promoting adherence to Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) and Australia Group guidelines;
- promoting adherence to the Chemical Weapons Convention;
- promoting adherence to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) and support for effective BWC implementation procedures; and
- promoting support for a verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

In addition, the United States continues to urge supplier States, both bilaterally and in international forums, to refrain from exporting any weapons of mass destruction, missiles or related materials, equipment and technologies, as well as destabilizing advanced conventional weapons to countries in the Middle East, including those that support terrorism.

**Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review
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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**

Compilation of reports

Addendum

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
Reports received from States parties	
Japan	2
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	2

Reports received from States parties

Japan

[Original: English]
[15 April 2002]

1. Japan supported, and continues to fully support, the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East, which calls for the establishment of an effectively verifiable Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction, nuclear, chemical and biological, and their delivery systems. Japan also joined, at the fifty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly, the consensus adoption of resolution 56/21 of 29 November 2001, entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East", which refers to the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction.

2. The establishment of a zone free of nuclear and all other weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems in the Middle East will ultimately require the adherence by all States in the region to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Biological Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention. Japan has been taking part in the international efforts to encourage the universal adherence to these multilateral legally binding instruments on the disarmament of weapons of mass destruction.

3. It is no less important that compliance with those legal instruments should be fully assured. In that regard, Japan has been exerting its efforts to promote and facilitate the conclusion and entry into force of the International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards agreements and additional protocols.

4. The adherence to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty by all States in the region would also be a substantial practical step. Japan has also been exerting its utmost efforts to promote the adherence to the Treaty by all States, especially those States whose ratifications are required for its entry into force.

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

[Original: Arabic]
[9 April 2002]

1. The Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has long attached extreme importance to the question of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, inasmuch as it has been a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons since 1975 and is also a party to the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba). Moreover, all the States of the Middle East are parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, with the exception of Israel, the only country in the Middle East which has not yet acceded to the Treaty and none of whose nuclear facilities are placed under the safeguards system of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). As a result of this situation of imbalance in the Middle East region, which is fraught with constant political tension, the States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1995 adopted a resolution on the Middle East submitted jointly by the depositary Governments of the Treaty, namely, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. The Resolution stressed, among other things, the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and the role of the international community in that regard. It also reaffirmed the importance of the early realization of universal adherence to the Treaty and called upon all States in the Middle East that had not yet done so, without exception, to accede to the Treaty as soon as possible and to place their nuclear facilities under full-scope International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards. It furthermore called upon all States in the Middle East to take practical steps aimed at making progress towards the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. Moreover, it called upon all States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, and in particular the nuclear-weapon States, to extend their cooperation and to exert their utmost efforts with a view to ensuring the early establishment of such a zone.

2. The Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, given the extremely high priority it thus accords to the question of the establishment of a

nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East and to contributing to the achievement of the goals and objectives of the related 1995 Resolution, has taken numerous measures towards the establishment of such a zone, aimed at the elimination of nuclear weapons from the region and at effective participation in the promotion and maintenance of international peace and security in the region. Those steps are as follows:

(a) At the national level:

- (i) Accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in 1975;
- (ii) Conclusion of a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency;
- (iii) Signing of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty;
- (iv) Signing of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty on 13 November 2001;

(b) At the regional level:

Participation by Libya in the discussion and drafting, within the framework of the League of Arab States, of a treaty to make the Middle East a nuclear-weapon-free zone;

(c) At the international level:

- Constant reaffirmation of the extreme importance of establishing a zone free of nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction. This has been clearly evident at numerous related international events and conferences, including the regular and special sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations;
- Participation, since 1974, in the submission to the General Assembly of a draft resolution on the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East, including at the fifty-sixth session of the Assembly;
- Participation with many Arab countries in the submission to the General Assembly of a draft resolution on the risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East, calling upon Israel, as the sole country in the Middle East that has not yet acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to accede to that Treaty without delay;

- Yearly participation in the submission of a draft resolution on the application of IAEA safeguards in the region of the Middle East, within the context of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

3. The Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya will continue its efforts towards the achievement of the goal of establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East as soon as possible, as an important step towards freeing the region of all weapons of mass destruction. It hopes that all States parties to the Treaty, in particular the nuclear-weapon States, will assume their responsibilities, make every effort and exercise all possible pressure for the realization of the objectives and goals of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East and the full implementation of the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties.

**Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review
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in the Middle East and the realization of the goals and objectives
of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East**

Compilation of reports

Addendum

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
Reports received from States parties	
France	2
Tunisia*	3

* Submitted on behalf of the Group of Arab States.

Reports received from States parties

France

[Original: French]

[16 April 2002]

1. France reaffirms its support for the Resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and for the relevant parts of the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference (para. 16, subparas. 1-10, of the section on article VII of the Treaty).
2. France reiterates the importance of establishing confidence-building and security measures in the region. The tragic events in the region highlight the importance of continuing to work for the achievement of a zone free of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. The aims of the peace process, which we hope to see resumed, and of a zone free from nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction are interconnected and mutually reinforcing. In the regional context of the Middle East, a combination of the two would be particularly welcome.
3. France has spared no effort to seek to achieve those aims. We have promoted them in the framework of the political and strategic dialogue which we pursue with numerous States of the region. We appeal to all States that have not already done so to sign and ratify the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction as well as the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction. We have also urged Israel to accede to the Non-Proliferation Treaty as part of our efforts to promote universal adherence to that instrument.
4. France voted in favour of the resolutions on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth and fifty-sixth sessions. Together with its European Union partners, it also voted in favour of the resolution on the risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East.
5. In addition, we have reiterated the need for strict compliance with the provisions of instruments relating to the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction on the part of the States parties. We have, for example, supported the efforts of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to verify Iraq's compliance with its obligations under the relevant Security Council resolutions.
6. France has also continued to appeal to the States of the region that have not already done so to place all their nuclear activities under IAEA safeguards. We have encouraged the States of the region to sign and ratify additional protocols.
7. General Assembly resolution 50/66 and the relevant parts of the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference rightly refer to the means of delivery of weapons of mass destruction. This is a matter of legitimate concern for the States of the region, as for all countries. France has done everything in its power, and

continues to strive, to secure universal endorsement of an international code of conduct against the proliferation of ballistic missiles.

Tunisia

[Original: Arabic]

[15 April 2002]

Arab States have taken decisive action in this regard, under the auspices of the League of Arab States. On 27 March 1994, at its 101st regular meeting of ministers, the Council of the League of Arab States adopted resolution No. 5380 providing for the establishment of a high-level technical committee of experts in international law, drawn from Member States and the secretariat, to conduct a joint Arab review of compliance with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons after 1995 and to formulate a draft treaty on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction. This subject is considered a permanent item on the Council's agenda.

Since its first meeting in 1994, the Committee has emphasized that the Non-Proliferation Treaty, its aims and universal adherence thereto, without exception, are crucial for the international disarmament regime; that security and stability in the Middle East are predicated upon complete disarmament of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction; and that the Arab position vis-à-vis the extension of the Treaty is based on the universality of that instrument.

Through the periodic and regular meetings which it holds for the purpose of drawing up a draft treaty on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction and, most importantly, of nuclear weapons, the Committee has demonstrated its seriousness and willingness to help support the steps taken by the international community to promote non-proliferation and achieve peace and security at the regional and international levels. The Committee held its fifteenth meeting on 12 February 2002.

In spite of this clear and balanced Arab view and of the unified Arab position by which all Arab States have acceded to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and comply fully with the provisions of the Resolution on the Middle East adopted by both the 1995 Review and Extension Conference and, as part of an agreement providing for the indefinite extension of the Treaty, also co-sponsored by the three nuclear depositary States, Israel continues categorically to refuse to accede to the Non-Proliferation Treaty or even to declare its intention of doing so. It also refuses to place its nuclear facilities under the IAEA safeguards system and insists on using outmoded concepts such as the option of nuclear deterrence.

While Arab leaders have, ever since the extraordinary Arab Summit held at Cairo in June 1996, maintained that a just and comprehensive peace is a strategic option to which effect must be given in accordance with international resolutions, Israel has yet to respond to this appeal, which was renewed at the Tenth Arab Summit held at Beirut on 27 and 28 March 2002. The Summit also approved the initiative presented by His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah bin Abdul-Aziz, the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia.

The Arab peace initiative, which the Arab leaders at Beirut adopted at a time of grave regional and international turmoil, emphasizes that lasting peace and stability in the region can only be achieved if Israel accedes to the Treaty and places all its nuclear installations under the comprehensive IAEA safeguards system. In that regard, the initiative also stresses the extreme importance of ridding the Middle East region of nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction as a necessary and essential condition for the establishment of any future regional security arrangements.

For many years Arab States have been working and taking steps at the international level to try to rid the Middle East of nuclear weapons. I should like to refer to some of these efforts as follows:

At its fifty-sixth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 56/21 of 29 November 2001 entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East". This resolution, which was included on the General Assembly's agenda for the first time in 1974 and has been adopted by consensus every year since 1980, aims at eliminating the nuclear-weapon threat from the Middle East.

At its fifty-sixth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 56/27 of 29 November 2001 entitled "The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East". This resolution is proposed each year by the Arab Republic of Egypt on behalf of all Arab States and enjoys the support of an overwhelming majority of Member States. Inter alia, it calls upon Israel as the only State in the Middle East that has yet to accede to the Non-Proliferation Treaty to do so without further delay and to place all its nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards with a view to realizing the goal of universal adherence to the Treaty in the Middle East.

At its forty-fifth session, the IAEA General Conference adopted by consensus resolution GC(45)/RES/18 of 21 September 2001 on the implementation of IAEA safeguards in the Middle East, for which it won the support of all Arab States.

This broad-based support for the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East reflects the growing concern of the international community at Israel's defiance of repeated calls for it to accede to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and of numerous international resolutions in that regard, including Security Council resolutions.

We should like to reaffirm those parts of the guidelines issued by the 1999 substantive session of the United Nations Disarmament Commission that pertain to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

This situation prompted the States Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty to reaffirm, in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference, the importance of the Resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference and to recognize that the resolution would remain valid until its goals and objectives have been achieved. They also determined that the resolution was an essential element of the outcome of the 1995 Review Conference and of the basis on which the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was indefinitely extended without a vote in 1995. Consequently this resolution must be regarded as being equally important to and having the same binding force as the resolution providing for the indefinite extension of the Treaty.

In the light of the foregoing, the Arab States take the view that:

- The 2005 review process must undertake a comprehensive assessment of compliance by States parties, particularly nuclear-weapon States that approved the adoption of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East, and implementation of the pledges which they made at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference and renewed at the 2000 Review Conference;
- It is necessary to stress that the continuation of the Israeli nuclear programme outside the framework of the non-proliferation regime and Israel's refusal to accede to the Treaty or place all its nuclear installations under the IAEA safeguards system pose a direct threat to regional and international security and stability and undermine the credibility of the Treaty.
- The 2005 Review Conference must endeavour to create mechanisms for the implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East and to monitor the implementation of the recommendations made by the 2000 Conference of the Parties towards that end, with a view to achieving all of its aims and purposes.

The Arab States stress that all States Parties to the Treaty, particularly nuclear States, must take decisive action to rid the Middle East region of nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction.

This request is a joint position and a firm belief of all Arab States, which are determined to eliminate nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction from the Middle East. The Arab States will continue their efforts to realize that noble goal, thereby making a positive and important contribution to the establishment of peace in the Middle East, a region which, particularly at the present time, is fraught with tension and tragedy as a result of Israeli practices in the occupied Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem, the occupied Syrian Golan and the occupied territories in southern Lebanon.

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

18 April 2002
English
Original: Arabic

First session

New York, 8-19 April 2002

**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**

Compilation of reports

Addendum

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
Reports received from States parties	
Qatar.	2

Reports received from States parties

Qatar

[Original: Arabic]

[16 April 2002]

The State of Qatar is submitting this report in response to the request made in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons that States parties to the Treaty should report through the United Nations Secretariat to the President of the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, as well as to the Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee meetings, on steps taken 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.

1. The State of Qatar supports the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.
 2. The State of Qatar acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on 3 April 1989.
 3. In the framework of the League of Arab States, the State of Qatar is participating in the elaboration of a draft treaty establishing in the Middle East a zone free of weapons of mass destruction and, in particular, nuclear weapons.
 4. The State of Qatar shares the position taken by States parties at the 2000 Review Conference urging Israel to accede to the Treaty and place its nuclear facilities under the International Atomic Energy Agency full-scale safeguards regime so as to achieve the goal of universal adherence to the Treaty and realize the aspiration for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone.
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