

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

NPT/CONF.2005/PC.II/.30  
2 May 2003

ENGLISH  
Original: ARABIC

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Second session  
Geneva, 28 April-9 May 2003

**Steps to promote the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free zone  
in the Middle East**

**Report submitted by Saudi Arabia**

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

**Geneva, 28 April-9 May 2003**

This report is being submitted in response to the request made in part I of the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons held at the headquarters of the United Nations in New York that nuclear-weapon States, the States of the Middle East region and other interested States should report through the United Nations Secretariat to the President of the 2005 NPT Review Conference, as well as to the Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee meetings, on the steps 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 Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has the honour to submit its report on this subject.

1. The subject of ridding the Middle East region of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction has been stressed in numerous international and regional forums.

1.1 Every year since its twenty-ninth session in 1974, the General Assembly of the United Nations has adopted a resolution on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East. From the thirty-fifth session of 1980 up to the fifty-third session of 2002, the resolution was always adopted by consensus.

1.2 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 formation of a committee to make the Middle East a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons; the

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initiative was supported and endorsed by all Arab States. On 21 May 1999, at its 114th regular meeting of ministers, the Council of the League of Arab States adopted resolution No. 5491 reaffirming the continuing support of Arab States for the aims and objectives of the NPT and stressing the importance of ensuring that all States without exception should adhere to the Treaty, as the linchpin of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime.

1.3 In the Final Document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference, the Conference reaffirmed its support for the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones and stressed the importance of the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review Conference, which calls upon all States in the region to accede to the NPT and to place their nuclear facilities under full-scope International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards. It also calls for the promotion of the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

2. The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accords the utmost concern to efforts to avert the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, and to endeavours to eliminate them at both the international and regional levels.

2.1 At the international level, the Kingdom's commitment to this matter has been given concrete expression by its accession to the principal international treaties and conventions concerned with nuclear, chemical, and biological, weapons of mass destruction. This represents an official position of the Kingdom which aims at supporting international efforts to combat the proliferation of, and eliminate weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, in order to achieve international peace and security. The Kingdom has furthermore endorsed the relevant United Nations resolutions, including the resolutions of the General Assembly entitled "Nuclear disarmament" (55/33 T), "A path to the total elimination of nuclear weapons" (55/33 R), "Reducing nuclear danger" (55/33 N) and "Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons" (55/33 X). The Kingdom has also supported, and continues to support, international efforts to establish a zone free of these weapons in the Middle East, endorsing General Assembly resolutions on this subject, including its resolutions entitled "The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East" and "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East".

2.2 At the regional level, the Kingdom's participation in, and its tireless and ongoing endeavours at, the regular meetings of the committee responsible for drafting a treaty on the establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction are a reflection of the Kingdom's policy of ridding the region of all weapons of mass destruction and of its conviction that security and stability cannot be achieved through the possession of such destructive weapons. Accordingly, the Kingdom has taken every care to join fraternal Arab States in assiduously attending the meetings the committee has held ever since its establishment in 1994.

2.3 In this regard, while presiding over the meeting of the Council of Ministers held on 7 Muharram A.H. 1424 (corresponding to 10 March 2003), the Custodian of the Two Holy Places, King Fahd Bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud, stressed the importance of ridding the Middle East

region of all weapons of mass destruction. King Fahd Bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud further highlighted the importance of ensuring that the policy of eliminating weapons of mass destruction should be binding on all States of the region and should be applied to all without exception, so as to guarantee security and stability for all the States and peoples in the region.

3. The successful establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in certain regions of the world, thanks to cooperation between the States concerned and their recognition of the vital importance of peaceful coexistence, marks a positive step towards the creation of a world free of weapons of mass destruction. It is regrettable, however, that the Middle East region remains so far from realizing this goal, because of Israel's refusal of any attempt to achieve it. Israel continues to obstruct the realization of this goal by linking its position on the question of nuclear weapons in the region to the peace process and to comprehensive all-party negotiations. Israel also persists in rejecting calls from the United Nations, the IAEA, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the Organization of the Islamic Conference urging it to desist from developing, producing, or testing nuclear weapons. Indeed, it remains the only country in the region to have nuclear weapons and programmes and chemical weapons outside the scope of the international monitoring regime.

3.1 In this context, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia views the Israeli position vis-à-vis the question of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East and all the reasons it has given to justify its possession and development of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, as being in clear and blatant contradiction with all its claims about wishing for peace with the peoples and States of the region. True peace must be built on trust and good will between the States and peoples of the region and their liberation from oppression and occupation, and not on the possession or threat of use of nuclear weapons or the imposition of a policy of presenting others with a *fait accompli*, or of hegemony, which will be a source of concern and pose a threat not only to the peoples of the region, but also to international peace and security.

3.2 The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has stressed, and continues to stress, the importance of ridding the region of the Middle East of all weapons of mass destruction without discriminating between the States of the region, following the example of other geographical areas of the world where these weapons have been eliminated thanks to the good will of, and cooperation between, all the States parties to the relevant regional treaties, such as the Tlatelolco, Raratonga, Bangkok and Pelindaba treaties. The success of the Pelindaba Treaty in eliminating nuclear weapons from the African continent was largely influenced by the initiative taken by South Africa in eliminating its own nuclear weapons. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia calls on Israel to follow South Africa's lead, by dismantling its nuclear arsenal in order to promote peace and security in the Middle East and in the world.

3.3 While all States in the Middle East region have acceded to the NPT, which is the linchpin of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime, the Kingdom should like to reaffirm that Israel, as the only country in the region not to have signed the Treaty and to have nuclear facilities outside the scope of IAEA safeguards, now more than ever must take the urgent steps

required for its accession to the Treaty and should comply with the relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions. It should also place all its nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards in order to realize effective progress towards ridding the Middle East region of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

4. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia hopes that international efforts on behalf of peace will be redoubled in this important region of the world, with a view to actually achieving the goal of ridding the Middle East region of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons. Although the Kingdom supported the process of disarming Iraq of weapons of mass destruction that was implemented by the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission and IAEA inspectors in accordance with the terms of Security Council resolutions, most recently Security Council resolution 1441 (2002), it should like to underscore the importance of applying international resolutions fairly and comprehensively. In particular, selectivity should be avoided by working to disarm Israel of its deadliest nuclear weapons of mass destruction and by giving effect both to Security Council resolution 482 (1980), which calls on Israel to place all its nuclear facilities under the IAEA safeguards regime, and to paragraph 14 of Security Council resolution 687 (1991), which was adopted pursuant to Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations and notes that all actions to be taken by Iraq in the sphere of disarmament represent steps towards the goal of establishing in the Middle East a zone free from weapons of mass destruction.

4.1 The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia stresses the necessity of revitalizing international efforts in support of Israel's accession to the NPT, since it is the only country in the Middle East to have failed to accede to that instrument, and of working to ensure that it places all its nuclear facilities under IAEA full-scope safeguards. If this were done, it would have a positive impact on the prospects for ridding the Middle East of all weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, and would strengthen opportunities for the achievement of peace and security in the region and the world.

4.2 In this connection, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia should like to endorse the view expressed by the participants at the 2000 Review Conference that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is "the only absolute guarantee against use or threat of use" of such weapons. The Kingdom should like to recall the unequivocal undertaking given by the five nuclear-weapon States at the 2000 NPT Review Conference to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals. The Kingdom believes, in the light of the ongoing instability in the Middle East and the dangers posed by recent events in the region, that the fears of many non-nuclear-weapon States should be given serious consideration and that a binding international instrument should be drafted to guarantee the safety of non-nuclear-weapon States.

4.3 In this regard, the Kingdom calls on nuclear- and non-nuclear-weapon States to cease their production of fissile materials for military purposes, to undertake negotiations on the establishment of the Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty, and to place the materials they produce under the comprehensive IAEA safeguards system. It also calls on nuclear-weapon States or those with nuclear capabilities to desist from conducting nuclear tests or from encouraging other States to conduct such tests.

4.4 The Kingdom also believes in the importance of giving effect to the aims and purposes of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East and of implementing the terms of the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference in this regard. The interested States, particularly the three depositary States which sponsored the resolution on the Middle East, should work towards the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East and follow up on the recommendations set forth in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference, taking the appropriate steps to push for the urgent “establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons”.

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