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

8 April 2004

Original: English

Third session

New York, 26 April-7 May 2004

**Report by the United Kingdom on the goals and objectives
of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East**

1. The United Kingdom applauds Libya's decision to rid itself of Weapons of Mass Destruction, including nuclear weapons, announced on 19 December 2003. We have worked in co-operation with the US to facilitate Libya's decision to acknowledge and renounce its WMD programme. At Libyan initiative, our experts have held, and continue to hold, detailed discussions about the Libyan programmes with their Libyan counterparts. We have facilitated Libyan engagement with the appropriate international bodies, the IAEA and the OPCW, and in co-operation with these agencies we have offered assistance with dismantlement of Libya's programme.
2. We welcome the new opportunity for the people of Iraq to determine their own future, including the handover of sovereignty to an interim Iraqi Government on 30 June 2004. We are confident that this future will not involve weapons of mass destruction. One of the catalysts for the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the region has therefore been removed. This provides a further encouragement for the pursuit of a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East, including the removal of weapons of mass destruction from the region.
3. In co-operation with France and Germany we have encouraged Iran to resolve international concerns about the purpose of its nuclear programme through active co-operation with the IAEA and through suspending its enrichment and reprocessing activities. In conjunction with the IAEA Board of Governors, we have secured Iranian agreement voluntarily to suspend development of its uranium enrichment-related and reprocessing activities. Until Iran resolves international concerns about the purpose of its nuclear programme, pursuit of these activities serves only to increase international concern.
4. 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 and Additional Protocol with the IAEA. We have continued to press these messages to Israeli officials, most recently in London in November 2003.

5. 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 first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons we have lobbied States in the region on the question of signature and ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, accession to the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention and agreement of an IAEA Additional Protocol.
 6. We also recognise 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 fully support the implementation of the “Road Map”, and call on both sides to fulfil their commitments under the plan. 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”.
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