
**Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review
Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the
Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

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**Implementation of the 1995 resolution and 2000 outcome
on the Middle East****Working paper submitted by Egypt**

1. Concerned of serious implications of the presence of nuclear weapons in the Middle East and the profound strategic threat such weapons pose to regional and international peace and security, Egypt and the States of the region were keen to address this issue in several forums from an early date; beginning in the General Assembly in 1974, by calling for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, and at the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), by calling for the application of IAEA safeguards in the Middle East, as well as at successive review conferences of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

2. Since 1974, the General Assembly has annually adopted resolutions calling for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, and since 1979 has annually adopted resolutions addressing the risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East.

3. The indefinite extension of the NPT at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference was only possible in the context of the overall package arrived at, comprising three decisions and one crucial resolution; namely, the resolution on the Middle East. Most countries of the Middle East, including Egypt, saw little sense in extending the Treaty indefinitely without firmly resolving the issue of the existence of nuclear weapons in the Middle East.

4. The position of Egypt and all NPT member States of the Middle East was based on the fact that extending the Treaty indefinitely without bringing Israel into the Treaty membership as a non-nuclear-weapon State, would mean exposing non-nuclear-weapon States of the Middle East to a direct nuclear threat while at the same time committing them to renounce the nuclear option. The persistence of such a situation would in effect alter the purpose of the Treaty to become a destabilizing instrument for all States in the Middle East other than Israel and would almost certainly provoke a regional arms race.



5. The 1995 resolution on the Middle East 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. Today, in April 2007, Israel remains the only State in the Middle East that has not acceded to the Treaty or placed its nuclear facilities under full-scope IAEA safeguards.

6. The 2000 Review Conference reaffirmed the importance of the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference and recognized that the resolution remains valid until its goals and objectives are achieved. It also recognized that the resolution is 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 in 1995.

7. Recognizing that all States of the Middle East, with the exception of Israel, had acceded to the Treaty, the 2000 Review Conference welcomed the accession by those States and reaffirmed the importance of Israel's accession to the Treaty 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.

8. Furthermore, the 2000 Review Conference invited all States to issue and transmit declarations of support for establishing an effectively verifiable Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons to the Secretary-General and to take practical steps towards that objective, and requested all States parties to report to the President of the 2005 Review Conference on the steps they have taken to promote the achievement of such a zone and the realization of the goals and objectives of the 1995 resolution. Pursuant to the mandate issued by the 2000 Review Conference to the Secretary-General, a compilation of those reports was issued in document NPT/CONF.2005/15.

9. The outcome of the 2000 Review Conference and the 1995 resolution on the Middle East represent a cumulative result that should be the point of departure for the 2010 Review Conference. At the same time, the outcome of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Treaty represents an integrated whole, the credibility of which would be compromised if any of its components were not complied with.

10. During the 2005 Review Conference, the States parties to the Treaty were expected to assess progress achieved towards implementing that resolution since its adoption in 1995 and following the 2000 outcome to recommend the course of action for the full realization of its objectives. However, this did not occur. The 2010 Review Conference must endorse immediate concrete steps to be taken towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East thereby implementing the 1995 resolution and 2000 outcome. The failure of the 2010 Conference to do so would confirm that the legal, political and practical foundations of the Treaty have been significantly undermined. This scenario is one that all States parties to the Treaty should work to avoid.

11. The 2010 Review Conference must stress the renewed and strengthened commitment of States parties to enact all measures available to them to bring about the immediate implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East. The Conference has to decide on specific actions to be taken during the following review

cycle, given the lack of progress on the part of Israel towards accession to the Treaty or placement of its nuclear facilities under comprehensive safeguards.

12. States parties should continue to report through the Secretariat to the 2010 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 they have taken to promote the achievement of a zone free of nuclear weapons in the Middle East and the realization of the goals and objectives of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East and of the outcome of the 2000 Review Conference on the Middle East. The Secretariat is requested to prepare a compilation of those reports for consideration of these matters at the Preparatory Committee meetings and the 2010 Review Conference.

13. It is imperative that a clear action-oriented process, in which all States parties of the NPT take active role, be institutionalized for the follow-up and implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East and the 2000 outcome on the Middle East until their objectives are fully realized. Failure to do so will ultimately undermine the credibility of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.
