

Постоянное Представительство
Российской Федерации
при Организации
Объединенных Наций
в Нью-Йорке



Permanent Mission
of the Russian Federation
to the United Nations
in New York

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STATEMENT
by the Delegation of the Russian Federation
at the Third Session of the Preparatory Committee
for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties
to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Implementation of Resolution on the Middle East
Adopted by the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference

Mr. Chairman,

The situation with the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) in the Middle East remains complex. In this region, still there are states that have not placed their nuclear activities under the IAEA safeguards and that are not parties to the NPT. A number of countries remain outside the Chemical and Biological Weapons Conventions. Besides, the IAEA remains concerned over the nature of nuclear activities carried out by some countries of the region parties to the NPT.

On the other hand, recent years have seen a number of positive developments; those were Libya voluntarily abandoning its WMD programmes and the absence of evidence of the existence of nuclear weapons programme in Iraq.

We believe that the establishment of a zone free from nuclear weapons and other WMD, as well as means of their delivery in the Middle East would be an ideal option for the comprehensive resolution of the non-proliferation issues in the Middle East and ensuring peace and security in this region. For this particular reason we co-sponsored together with the USA and the UK a resolution on the establishment of such zone at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference. We are convinced that the implementation of this resolution would contribute to strengthening security of all states in the Middle East and benefit their long-term national interests, as well as certainly increase the NPT efficiency.

We understand that the establishment of a WMD-free zone in the Middle East is integrally linked with the Middle East peace process. Russia, along with other Middle East Quartet mediators, makes most vigorous efforts to promote the negotiating process in this region, considering a lasting peace to be a key factor contributing to regional security.

Mr. Chairman,

We believe that today, 14 years after the NPT Review and Extension Conference adopted the resolution on the Middle East, we should not confine ourselves to reaffirming our commitment to this resolution, but think of specific steps to be taken in order to achieve the goal set forth in this resolution. Certainly, we realize that taking in consideration today's realities it is hard to imagine that such zone can be established overnight. Yet we need to move forward to it. Major steps on this way are well-known. It is necessary that all nuclear installations which have not yet been placed under the IAEA safeguards in the states which are not NPT parties be placed under the full scope of such safeguards, as provided for by the 1995 resolution; besides, all countries in the region should accede to the NPT and assume the relevant international obligation not to acquire nuclear weapons nor nuclear explosive devices and place all their nuclear activities under the IAEA safeguards. These steps would be a real contribution to the

How could this be achieved? I believe that today no one has any ready-made prescriptions. In our proposals, we have taken in consideration both the provisions of the 1995 resolution and the proposals concerning ways to implement it made by Egypt, Iran and other countries in the course of the review process.

It would be helpful to hold an international conference or a meeting involving all the parties concerned to consider the prospects of implementation of this resolution as a whole.

Moreover, we find the idea expressed by some of the NPT parties, to appoint a special coordinator who would be authorized to hold consultations with the countries of the region on this matter and who would consequently report on the outcome of his or her work in the course of the review process, very helpful.

At the same time, we believe that it is high time for the countries of the region to start taking certain steps as a confidence building measure, which would contribute to creating a climate conducive to further advance towards a WMD-free zone in the Middle East. We refer, first of all, to signing and ratification of the CTBT by all the Middle East states. As a first step, Egypt, Israel and Iran that has already signed this Treaty and are among the states on which its entry into force depends, could immediately ratify it.

Voluntarily assumed obligation of all states of the region not to create and develop capabilities for uranium enrichment and chemical reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel could be another confidence-building measure aimed at implementing the 1995 resolution. At the same time, we have no intention of questioning the right of states to generate and use nuclear power for peaceful purposes. Nevertheless, such right does not imply that it is compulsory to make use of it. Certainly, this proposal could be realized only on condition that guaranteed supplies of nuclear fuel is ensured through the mechanism of multilateral approaches to nuclear fuel cycles which, to our mind, would serve the best interests of the Middle East states. The relevant Russia's initiatives — which are already underway — are well known. I refer to the International Uranium Enrichment Center in Angarsk and a reserve of low-enriched uranium to be provided to states parties to the NPT upon the IAEA request in case there are problems with commercial nuclear fuel supplies.

We would like to once again reiterate our country's commitment to a lasting, just and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East, as well as to creating a climate of mutual trust and predictability in relations between the states of the Middle East and making the region free of all weapons of mass destruction.

Thank you.