

**Statement by  
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Before the fourth session of  
the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear  
Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction  
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**Thematic Discussions:  
Inalienable Right to Peaceful Uses**

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*In the Name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful*

**Mr. President,**

**(The Right to Peaceful Nuclear Energy in General)**

The establishment of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in 1957 under the United Nations has outlined pivotal goals and responsibilities of the IAEA. These include fostering the development, research, and utilization of peaceful nuclear energy, ensuring the safety of nuclear facilities, and preventing the diversion of atomic energy for military purposes or weapon production.

Article 3, Clause A of the IAEA statute explicitly mandates the agency to encourage and assist governments in global research, development, and practical use of atomic energy for civilian purposes. This highlights the necessity, acknowledged by the international community, for cooperation in these realms, fostering the peaceful use of nuclear energy worldwide.

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, despite its imperfections in classifying member states to the haves and have-nots, stands as a crucial international document acknowledging nuclear disarmament and also both the commitment to prevent nuclear weapon proliferation and the right to employ nuclear energy for peaceful ends. The treaty's inclusion of the inalienable right to use nuclear energy in Article 4 has been a driving force for non-nuclear weapon states joining the pact, solidifying the perception of this right as fundamental among nations.

The right to access peaceful nuclear energy is entrenched in general international law, yet concerns about the misuse of nuclear energy for weaponization prompted the development of mechanisms such as the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. This, in conjunction with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, emphasizes the balance between promoting peaceful nuclear energy use and preventing its misuse.

**Mr. President,**

**(The Right to Peaceful Nuclear Energy in the Context of a Regional Treaty)**

Article IV of the NPT underscores the fundamental right of States Parties to develop and employ nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. The Final Documents of the 1985, 2000, and 2010 NPT Review Conferences have consistently supported the autonomy of each nation in determining its path in the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Full compliance with this obligation is crucial, particularly for States possessing advanced nuclear technology. The efficiency of the IAEA's technical assistance program is pivotal for fostering nuclear energy for peaceful ends.

Concern arises from certain States imposing unilateral restrictions, extending beyond IAEA safeguards, on nuclear material and technology transfer for peaceful purposes. This is especially troubling when non-NPT nuclear weapon states benefit from nuclear cooperation, while NPT States face such constraints.

We should make sure that these restrictions will have no place when such a treaty for Middle East is adopted and being implemented. In the pursuit of a future treaty, it is vital to reaffirm and protect the rights of member states to engage in research, production, and use of relevant technologies and materials for peaceful objectives, in compliance with the Treaty prohibitions. All member states should have equitable and unrestricted access to equipment, materials, and scientific knowledge for peaceful applications. Verification or safeguard measures should not impede legitimate peaceful uses or infringe upon a state's sovereign decisions.

Crucially, international cooperation in peaceful nuclear energy applications should persist unhindered under any circumstances.

Within regional agreements, the ideas such as those articulated by Iran in previous discussions, the emphasis on utilizing nuclear, biological, and chemical technologies for peaceful purposes is paramount. Ensuring the facilitation of access to these

technologies and protecting members' rights against obstruction are pivotal elements of such treaties.

In this context, it's essential to avoid unilateral coercive measures that hinder peaceful technology and international cooperation. This is exactly the point that a number of delegations highlighted in their general debate statement objecting such a restriction. Therefore, encouraging the Working Committee to delve deeper into these topics will fortify understanding and cooperation.

In the context of the Middle East, fostering joint efforts among regional countries to establish a framework for peaceful nuclear cooperation, including a consortium for fuel production, is crucial. While a few regional countries have requests for uranium enrichment and nuclear fuel production, it's imperative to weigh the risks and costs thereof. In this context, collaborating within the region and establishing a multinational consortium to supply nuclear power plants while ensuring the exclusively peaceful use of enriched uranium seems a more viable and sustainable path for regional cooperation.

Having said that Iran's proposal for this initiative stands as a constructive step towards leveraging regional synergies for the benefit of all involved countries.

**I thank you, Mr. President.**