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# GENERAL CONFERENCE

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REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ITEM ENTITLED  
"THE ISRAELI NUCLEAR THREAT"  
IN THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE  
THIRTIETH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

Explanatory memorandum submitted  
by the Syrian Arab Republic

## Preamble

1. It is common knowledge that Israel has, ever since its establishment, engaged in a policy of aggression in the Middle East, ignoring and refusing to comply with the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, the General Assembly and other international bodies and organizations. Such an attitude can only lead to an escalation of tension and threaten peace and security in the area and in the world at large. Currently, Israel is occupying territories belonging to every single neighbouring State; furthermore, it has recently launched long-range attacks on sovereign Arab countries far from its borders, such as Iraq and Tunisia.

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2. Testifying to Israel's aggressive practices and its complete disregard for the resolutions of international organizations are its attitude towards questions pertaining to nuclear armament and disarmament, its incessant efforts to possess nuclear weapons, its adamant refusal to become party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, its rejection of IAEA inspection of its nuclear facilities and its unwillingness to accept the Middle East as a nuclear-weapon-free zone. Instead, Israel has attacked Iraqi nuclear facilities covered by IAEA safeguards and has withheld making any binding commitment to refrain from threatening similar installations in the region. It has, moreover, further consolidated its unflagging relations with South Africa. In sum, Israel has not only failed to comply with United Nations resolutions but also completely ignored all IAEA decisions and resolutions.

Israeli capabilities and activities in the field of nuclear armament

3. A report presented at the fortieth session of the United Nations General Assembly (document A/40/520, dated 9 August 1985) included information on Israeli nuclear armament, pointing out Israel's technical capability to manufacture nuclear weapons and the means required for launching them. In 1981, in an experts' report presented at the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly (document A/36/431), it was stated that:

- (a) "there is no doubt that Israel has the technical capability to manufacture nuclear weapons" and its reactors are capable of producing considerable amounts of plutonium and separating plutonium from irradiated uranium fuel. "It has the technological skills and expertise as well as the technical infrastructure required to manufacture nuclear weapons."
- (b) "since 1964, when Dimona [nuclear centre] went into operation, Israel could have produced sufficient weapons-grade plutonium for a significant number of explosive devices."

- (c) The Group of Experts, taking into account the size of Israel's nuclear facilities, the availability of nuclear material required for their operation, the existence of scientific and technical knowledge and the presence of an adequate number of trained and experienced staff, has no doubt that "Israel, if it has not already crossed that threshold, has the capability to manufacture nuclear weapons within a very short time."
- (d) The Group of Experts believes that, in order to avoid the danger of a nuclear arms race in the region of the Middle East, Israel should renounce "the possession of or any intention to possess nuclear weapons" and agree to submit "all its nuclear activities to international safeguards, through adherence to a nuclear-weapon-free zone in accordance with paragraphs 60 to 63 of the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (resolution S/10/2) and with Assembly resolution 35/147, through accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons."

#### Resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council

4. Since 1974 the General Assembly and the Security Council have adopted a number of resolutions reflecting anxiety and concern about the proliferation of nuclear weapons in the Middle East and Israel's potential for manufacturing nuclear weapons and its non-compliance with resolutions adopted by international organizations, its reluctance to become party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its refusal to make the Middle East region a nuclear-weapon-free zone. Israel's disinclination to place its nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards and its military and nuclear collaboration with the South African government have also been a source of widespread concern to the world community. This has induced the General Assembly to request that the IAEA and its Member States halt co-operation with Israel in the

nuclear field and put an immediate end to any form of nuclear assistance to Israel]. Furthermore, Israel has been urged to refrain from any attempt to acquire or manufacture nuclear weapons and from experiments to develop such weapons in its territory and the territories which it is occupying.

5. The General Assembly and the Security Council have adopted resolutions condemning Israel's collaboration with South Africa, particularly in the military and nuclear fields.

6. Reference may be made to a number of resolutions in which the General Assembly clearly stressed its position:

- Resolution No. 3263 (D-29)	December 1974
- Resolution No. 3474 (D-30)	December 1975
- Resolution No. 31/71	December 1976
- Resolution No. 32/72	December 1977
- Resolution No. D 14-10/2, para. 62D	December 1978
- Resolution No. 33/64	December 1978
- Resolution No. 34/77	December 1979
- Resolution No. 35/147	December 1980
- Resolution No. 36/87B	December 1981
- Resolution No. 36/98	December 1981
- Resolution No. 37/75	December 1982
- Resolution No. 37/82	December 1982
- Resolution No. 38/64	December 1983
- Resolution No. 38/99	December 1983
- Resolution No. 39/54	December 1984
- Resolution No. 39/147	December 1984

Resolutions pertaining to or issued by the IAEA

7. In 1981, in resolution No. 487, the Security Council called upon the IAEA to suspend the provision of scientific assistance to Israel. Further, it condemned Israel's collaboration with South Africa in the manufacturing of nuclear weapons. In December 1983, at its thirty-eighth session, the General Assembly (in resolution 38/69) requested the IAEA to terminate all scientific co-operation with Israel which might enhance its nuclear capability.

8. In September 1981, during its twentieth-fifth regular session, the General Conference of the IAEA (in resolution GC(XXV)/RES/381) urged the Agency and its Member States to immediately end the transfer to Israel of any fissionable material and nuclear technology which could be used for the manufacture of nuclear weapons. At the same time, it reaffirmed the right of all Member States to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes under internationally accepted safeguards.

The Israeli position

9. Israel has not changed its stance or policy. It has merely continued to ignore resolutions adopted by the United Nations Security Council, the General Assembly, the General Conference of the IAEA and other international bodies.

10. In the field of nuclear disarmament, the Israeli policy revolves around the following points:

- (a) Israel in practice rejects the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East;
- (b) It refuses to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;
- (c) It refrains from subjecting its nuclear facilities to international safeguards;

- (d) It is continuing its nuclear activities with the purpose of acquiring military nuclear technology and is pursuing these activities through legitimate and sometimes illegitimate means;
- (e) It refrains from making any binding commitment to halt its threats to attack nuclear installations in other countries, despite their being under sufficient international safeguards, and by so doing it is violating the right of individual States to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes; and
- (f) It is continuing its nuclear and military collaboration with South Africa.

#### Conclusion

11. By maintaining its stubborn stance and persistently ignoring resolutions adopted by the Security Council, the General Assembly and the IAEA General Conference, Israel is creating incentives for other Middle East States to acquire nuclear weapons. This would endanger both the security of the region and the peace and security of the world at large. Moreover, it would probably encourage other IAEA Member States to violate the Agency's Statute and its policies.

12. Despite the requests and resolutions of international organizations (all mentioned in the experts' report) urging all States to suspend nuclear assistance to Israel, some parties and countries are continuing nuclear and technological collaboration with Israel which serves the development of a dangerous nuclear industry.

13. The Syrian Arab Republic expresses its serious concern over Israel's policy and fully realizes the grave danger threatening our region. This has induced us to propose the inclusion of an item entitled "The Israeli nuclear threat" in the General Conference agenda in the hope that the General Conference will give it the serious attention it deserves, with a view to finding a suitable formula or solution which will alleviate tension in the area and spare it a nuclear disaster.