



International Atomic Energy Agency

# GENERAL CONFERENCE

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GC(XXXV)/969  
23 August 1991

GENERAL Distr.  
Original: ARABIC

Thirty-fifth regular session  
Item B of the provisional agenda  
(GC(XXXV)/952/Add.2)

REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ITEM ENTITLED  
"APPLICATION OF IAEA SAFEGUARDS IN THE MIDDLE EAST"  
IN THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRTY-FIFTH  
REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

Explanatory memorandum submitted jointly by  
Algeria, Egypt, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Qatar,  
Saudi Arabia, Sudan and the United Arab Emirates

In pursuit of the policy of disarmament, particularly the efforts made throughout the past decades within the framework of the United Nations for arms reduction and general and complete disarmament;

Believing in the importance of the system for the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, at both the international and the regional level;

Supporting the principles stated in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and recognizing the necessity for all States to accede to it, especially those located in regions of tension and conflicts;

And taking into account the importance of the IAEA safeguards system for the strengthening of the non-proliferation system;

We deem it important to include this item in the agenda for the 35th regular session of the General Conference.

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The question of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in the Middle East has been a subject of discussion in the Agency for several years. However, recent developments in the Middle East have proved the pressing need to take urgent measures to ensure peace and security in the region, including the application of Agency safeguards in all the countries of the region, especially those having significant nuclear activities. This is to ensure that all the countries of the region commit themselves not to carry out any tests of or to manufacture or acquire nuclear weapons. Such a commitment should be subject to a strict verification regime. The safeguards and verification systems designed for this region may well need to be more comprehensive.

Over the past years, the United Nations has been reiterating its call for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. Various initiatives have recently been made calling for arms reduction and for declaring the Middle East a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction. The Security Council has pointed out that the steps detailed in its resolution 687(1991) would lead to the attainment of this goal.

Pending the attainment of this goal, it is both possible and desirable – as stated in the various resolutions of the General Conference – that all the countries of the region should submit their nuclear installations to the Agency's safeguards system.

The Director General of the Agency has outlined specific measures to be taken for the application of safeguards in the Middle East, whether within the context of a nuclear-weapon-free zone (GC(XXXV)/960) or independent of it (GC(XXXV)/960, Annex A, para. 3).

It is high time to intensify efforts, within the framework of the Agency's activities – taking into account the Agency's mandate – to bring about the urgent application of comprehensive safeguards to all nuclear installations in the region. To this end, the Director General should be encouraged to take appropriate measures and consult with all States in the region, particularly those with significant nuclear activities, and should be supported in this connection. Moreover, the countries which have a special responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security should help the Director General to achieve this goal.

The acceptance and application of comprehensive Agency safeguards need not await a solution of the political problems of the region. Such a step could, in itself, be a catalyst that accelerates reaching an agreement on broader issues of peace and security in the region and could be a confidence-building measure helping to attain a lasting peace in the region.