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Communication received from the Resident Representative of Morocco, on behalf of the Arab Member States of the Agency, regarding the request to include in the agenda of the Conference an item entitled "Israeli Nuclear Capabilities"

1. The Director General has received a letter dated 29 September 2008 from the Resident Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco, on behalf of the Arab Member States of the Agency, relating to item 21 of the agenda of the Conference, "Israeli Nuclear Capabilities".
2. As requested therein, the attachment to the letter is herewith circulated.

Text stating the Arab Group's response to what is contained in the letter of the Resident Representative of Israel to the International Atomic Energy Agency concerning the inclusion of an item entitled "Israeli nuclear capabilities" in the agenda of the 52nd session of the General Conference of the Agency

The Arab Group confirms that, despite successive United Nations General Assembly and Security Council and International Atomic Energy Agency General Conference resolutions reflecting international consensus on disarmament and the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, and the importance of universal implementation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and after the accession of all the Arab States to it, Israel continues to insist on not acceding to the Treaty and, according to various reports, Israel is developing an advanced nuclear programme for military purposes, and as said by the Israeli Prime Minister (Ehud Olmert) in a statement for German television on 11 December 2006 when he announced that Israel possesses nuclear weapons, which has a negative impact on peace, security and stability and on efforts to prevent proliferation in the Middle East region.

Thus, the Arab Group confirms the importance of including the item on Israeli nuclear capability on the agenda of the General Conference to ensure that the International Atomic Energy Agency continues to play its role in dealing with this important issue, which is a cause of concern to the international community as a whole and is an additional cause of tension in the region.