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Application of IAEA Safeguards in the Middle East

Report by the Director General

Addendum

Further to Paragraph 16 of the Report by the Director General to the Board of Governors and to the General Conference on the “Application of IAEA Safeguards in the Middle East” (GOV/2009/44-GC/53/12) additional written replies have now been received from two Member States of the Middle East region: the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Sultanate of Oman. The relevant communications are reproduced herewith in the chronological order in which they were received at the Agency.

Text of the Letter from the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations and Other International Organizations

[Received on 25 August 2009]

Vienna, 24 August 2009

Dear Sir,

Referring to your communication dated 17 July 2009 on the Agenda item of 21 for the 53rd IAEA General Conference regarding the “Application of IAEA Safeguards in the Middle East”, I would like to assure you the cooperation of my country.

Iran as an author and initiator of the establishment of the Nuclear Weapons Free Zone in the Middle East on 1974 constantly supported the creation of such arrangement in the region.

The Islamic Republic of Iran not only in the policy making meetings of IAEA but also in all NPT’s PrepComs and Review Conferences supported establishment and realization of such an arrangement in the Middle East region. In this regard, the Islamic Republic of Iran supported the implementation of full-scope Agency’s safeguard in all countries of the Middle East.

On the decision of the Forty-fourth General Conference of IAEA for “convening a forum” I believe best conclusion will be reached when all parties would participate in equal footing manner, which means in this context all have the same undertaking and obligations. It is not reasonable all with exception of Israel have obligations and undertaking, and then invite them to come and learn lessons on confidence building measures. I believe adherence to the NPT is a logical requirement to structuring such initiative in the Middle East region and also shows the good intention of all concerned parties in the region.

Considering developments since last year regarding the aggressive policy of the Israeli regime, my country is of the view that stability cannot be achieved in a region through the possession of nuclear weapons which allow Israeli regime to attack its neighbours, threaten countries in the region to attack them and also using various kinds of internationally forbidden weapons against civilian people.

As long as the Israeli regime has not adhered to the NPT and put all its nuclear facilities under the IAEA full scope safeguards and continues to develop Weapons of Mass Destruction specially Nuclear Weapons, we see no benefit in the establishment of such a “Forum” and we could not accept it.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is asking the IAEA to call upon all countries to take collective and practical steps towards the establishment of NWFZ in the Middle East and pending its establishment, and to call on the Israeli regime, the only non-party to the NPT in the region, to renounce possession of nuclear weapons, to accede promptly to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as a non-nuclear weapon party, and to immediately place all its nuclear facilities under IAEA full-scope safeguards.

[signed]

Ali Asghar Soltanieh
Ambassador
Resident Representative

Text of the Letter from the Permanent Mission of
the Sultanate of Oman
to the International Atomic Energy Agency

[Received on 26 August 2009]

[Translated from Arabic]

Dear Sir,

I refer to your letter Ref. A1.13, dated 17 July 2009, to His Excellency Mr Yousuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah, Minister of Foreign Affairs, on the International Atomic Energy Agency proposal to organize an international forum on appropriate practical steps to be taken in order to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, as in other geographical areas, and the IAEA's desire to consider the views of the Middle Eastern States on such a forum.

In this connection, we are pleased to inform you that the Government of the Sultanate of Oman welcomes the organization of this international forum, provided every effort is made and suitable conditions are ensured to make it successful, with a view to focusing on ways of implementing the resolution of the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference on freeing the Middle East region from nuclear weapons and urging States in the region that have not yet acceded to that Treaty to do so without conditions or delay and to place their nuclear installations under IAEA comprehensive safeguards.

[signed]

Dr Badr Mohamed Zaher Al Hinai
Ambassador and Resident Representative of the Sultanate of Oman
to the International Atomic Energy Agency