

Board of Governors General Conference

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Item 8(b) of the Board's agenda

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Item 20 of the Conference's agenda

(GC(54)/16)

Israeli nuclear capabilities

Report by the Director General

Addendum

Further to paragraph 4 of the Report by the Director General to the Board of Governors and the General Conference on “Israeli nuclear capabilities” (GOV/2010/49-GC(54)/14) additional replies have now been received from four¹ Member States: Australia, Jamaica, Switzerland and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Copies of the relevant communications are attached hereto.

¹ Two Member States (Jamaica and Venezuela) have sent additional letters to those previously included in GOV/2010/49-GC(54)/14, Annex 2.



THE HON STEPHEN SMITH MP

MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Mr Yukiya Amano
Director General
International Atomic Energy Agency
Wagramerstrasse 5
A-1400 Vienna, Austria

- 8 SEP 2010

Dear Director General

I am writing in response to your letter seeking Australia's views on the "Israeli nuclear capabilities" resolution (GC(53)/RES/17) which was adopted at the 53rd regular session of the General Conference in September 2009.

Australia voted against the resolution because of the omission of any reference to the necessity for full compliance with non-proliferation obligations by all states in the Middle East. Full compliance by all states is critical to building mutual confidence and security in the region.

Australia is strongly committed to nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament and, consistent with this commitment, has long supported the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

It is now important to build on the positive momentum created by the NPT Review Conference, and to focus on implementing its agreed outcomes, including agreement to convene a conference in 2012 on the establishment of such a zone. In this context, an inevitably divisive "Israeli nuclear capabilities" resolution can only be counter-productive. It also risks politicising and disrupting the overall work of the IAEA General Conference.

Yours sincerely

Best wishes,


Stephen Smith



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND FOREIGN TRADE
JAMAICA

10 August 2010

Excellency,

I refer to your communication requesting the views of the Government of Jamaica on the implementation of the resolution GC (53)/RES/17 entitled "Israeli nuclear capabilities" that was adopted by the 53rd Regular Session of the General Conference on 18 September 2009.

The Government of Jamaica fully supports the universality of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and, in this regard, urges all non-states parties to the NPT to accede to the Treaty. We note the positive developments on the global disarmament agenda, including the successful review conference of the NPT last May.

Jamaica further believes that universal adherence to the Treaty in the Middle East, with the placement of all nuclear facilities under the comprehensive safeguards system of the IAEA, would significantly reduce the region's exposure to nuclear risks and contribute to peace and stability in the region. We underscore the importance of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free-zone in the Middle East and urge continued efforts towards this goal. A NWFZ in the region would constitute a major contribution to the global nonproliferation regime and to international security more broadly.

I hope that Jamaica's position will assist you in your report on the matter to the Board of Governors and to the 54th regular session of the General Conference.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Kenneth Baugh
Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade

H.E. Mr. Yukiya Amano
Director General
International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna, Austria

Translated from French

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Berne, 3 September 2010

Resolution GC(53)/RES/17 “Israeli nuclear capabilities”

Sir,

Thank you for your letter of 7 April 2010 about meeting the objectives of resolution GC(53)/RES/17 (“Israeli nuclear capabilities”), adopted on 18 September 2009 at the 53rd regular session of the IAEA General Conference.

Switzerland welcomes the fact that the 2010 NPT Review Conference adopted specific measures to facilitate the implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East. We believe that the international community now has a proper basis for sustained consideration of the issue dealt with in resolution GC(53)/RES/17.

Switzerland would like to highlight two of these specific measures, which it considers to be particularly important. First of all, the holding of a conference in 2012, and the appointment of a facilitator entrusted with the preparations for and follow-on to this event.

From our point of view, the choice of a facilitator represents a major challenge given the difficulty of the facilitator’s task. This will include finding an understanding among the various parties involved on the formulation of an agenda and the modalities of the 2012 conference. However, it is common knowledge that the parties involved have opposing approaches to the possible agenda for such a conference. Israel demands that peace in the region should precede discussions on disarmament, whereas the other side insists on an inverse sequence. As a result, Switzerland believes that the only way of proceeding will be to merge the two issues — disarmament and regional peace — in a single agenda for discussion.

First, however, it will be necessary to agree on diplomatic protocol. This issue is of the greatest urgency, as several States in the region do not recognize Israel. Switzerland therefore appeals to all States in the region to take steps to ensure that dialogue on one of the most important issues in terms of international peace and security is not blocked by procedural matters.

HE Mr Yukiya Amano
Director General
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If all the parties are prepared to make such efforts, it will then be possible to start a more detailed dialogue on particular parameters relating to the objectives of resolution GC(53)/RES/17, namely the accession to the NPT of all States in the region, the extension of IAEA safeguards to all nuclear facilities and the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

In conclusion, Switzerland is of the view that an approach making use of the elements adopted by consensus at the 2010 NPT Review Conference could prove capable of maintaining the constructive momentum created on that occasion on the issues related to the Middle East.

Switzerland has long contributed to efforts to promote peace in the Middle East. This commitment has further increased in recent years, for instance through the Geneva initiative of 2003. Accordingly, Switzerland will spare no effort and make itself fully available to help the 2012 conference achieve real progress.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(signed) Micheline Calmy-Rey
Federal Councillor

The Minister of People's Power for Foreign Affairs
of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

Caracas, 30 August 2010

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to write to Your Excellency to inform you that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela co-sponsored the resolution "Israeli nuclear capabilities", adopted on 17 September 2009 during the 53rd General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), on account of the Republic's commitment to international law, to the United Nations Charter and to global peace and security.

In this context, Venezuela has, in various multilateral forums, emphasized the urgent need for Israel to take immediate action in accordance with the provisions of, inter alia, the resolutions adopted by the IAEA Conferences, including GC(53)/RES/17, by the United Nations General Assembly, Security Council resolution 487 and, more recently, the final document of the 8th Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). In accordance with the above, Israel must accede to this juridical instrument, place its nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards and contribute to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

The world cannot fail to recognize the seriousness of the situation whereby a State, particularly as it has constantly ignored the basic principles of human rights and international humanitarian law, possesses a nuclear programme without any kind of international supervision and persists in its stance of refusing to act in accordance with the repeated calls made by a large number of States, international organizations and non-governmental organizations.

It is well known that the current international scene is marked by complexity and uncertainty owing to the threats and challenges posed to peace, security and economic and social development. Mistrust seems to prevail in the current climate, and this affects the success of international organizations in passing agreements and resolutions and, especially, in their subsequent implementation. However, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is convinced that the importance of the objectives set out in the documents adopted relating to Israel's nuclear programme, including those contained in resolution GC(53)/RES/17, justifies an additional effort by the international community to persuade the Government of this country to heed the calls for non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament and peace in the Middle East.

I avail myself of this opportunity to reiterate to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

(signed) Nicolás Maduro Moros

[stamp of the Office of the Minister, Ministry of People's
Power for Foreign Affairs, Bolivarian Republic of
Venezuela]

HE Mr Yukiya Amano
Director General
International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna