

General Conference

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(GC(59)/1, Add.1 and Add.2)

Communication received from the Resident Representative of Israel 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 6 August 2015 from the Resident Representative of Israel, relating to the request from the Arab States that are members of the Agency to include in the agenda of the Conference an item entitled "Israeli nuclear capabilities".
2. As requested therein, the letter is herewith circulated.



6 August 2015

Excellency,

In reference to document GC(59)/1/Add.1, dated 8 July 2015, I have the honour to convey the position of the State of Israel in the enclosed document.

I would be grateful if this letter could be circulated to the attention of all IAEA Member States.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Merav Zafary-Odiz

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Zafary Merav'.

Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Israel

To the IAEA and the CTBTO PrepCom

H.E. Mr. Yukiya Amano

Director General

International Atomic Energy Agency



In reference to a request submitted by the Ambassador of Egypt on behalf of the Arab States (document GC(59)/1/Add.1, dated 8 July 2015), to include in the agenda of the 59th General Conference (GC) an item entitled "Israeli nuclear capabilities," Israel wishes to state its position as follows:

Similar Arab-sponsored initiatives and draft resolutions were rejected by a majority vote of the member states of the Agency in 2010, 2013 and 2014. In the years 2011 and 2012, no resolution was submitted under the same agenda item. It is therefore highly regrettable that the Arab States decided this year, once again, to impose upon the GC this issue, which is outside the scope of the IAEA's Statute and mandate, unrelated to the Agenda of the GC, and injurious to the Agency's credibility as a professional organization.

The Arab States' initiative and resolution on the so-called "Israeli nuclear capabilities" is contentious, biased and fundamentally flawed. It tries to impose on the Director General of the IAEA an annual comprehensive reporting on Israel, which has never been the subject of an investigation by the Agency for any violation.

Israel values the non-proliferation regime, acknowledges its significance, and has implemented over the years a responsible policy and restraint in the nuclear domain. It is important to recall that the most substantial threats to the non-proliferation regime and the NPT over many years stem from Middle Eastern countries that pursued or continue to pursue nuclear weapons under the guise of their NPT membership. Iraq, Libya, Iran and Syria, co-sponsors of this Arab anti-Israeli initiative, were found to be in flagrant violation of their international obligations and commitments in this regard.

On its part, and in spite of the deteriorating regional environment, Israel was closely engaged, and manifested its constructive attitude in an effort to advance substantive regional dialogue, in five rounds of multilateral consultations facilitated by Ambassador Jaakko Laajava of Finland during the period of



October 2013 to June 2014. Regrettably, some key states in the region preferred to avoid these consultations, and others opted to bring this meaningful regional engagement to its end by rejecting the idea of further consultations prior to the NPT Review Conference aiming at a consensual agreement on a conference in Helsinki.

During these five rounds of multilateral consultations Israel elaborated its policy and approach on regional security and arms control. Israel reiterated its position that the nuclear issue, as well as all regional security issues, conventional and non-conventional alike, could only be realistically addressed within the regional context, through a gradual process that begins with confidence building measures. A direct dialogue between all states of the region should be based on the indispensable principle of consensus between the parties, as demonstrated in any other region in the pursuit of regional security arrangements or agreements.

Israel's conviction regarding the centrality of an inclusive regional security dialogue was manifested also in its participation, for the first time in many years, as an observer in the 2015 NPT Review Conference. Israel's national paper submitted in the NPT Review Conference clearly reflects its goodwill and constructive attitude towards the genuine goals of the non-proliferation regime and its regional perspectives.

Our neighbors' insistence on Israel's joining the NPT not only ignores the repeated pursuit of nuclear weapons by Middle Eastern members of the Treaty, in a clear violation of their obligation and commitments, but also masks their refusal to engage sincerely with Israel.

Israel would welcome initiatives to engage in a meaningful, broad range, regional security dialogue, based on the principles of direct engagement and consensus that could lead to a more secure Middle East. Attempts to impose on



the region a process which is not based on these fundamentals will neither assist nor hasten positive developments.

Undoubtedly, the adoption of a biased, politically motivated resolution entitled "Israeli nuclear capabilities" by the GC intends to divert attention from the dire situation in many parts of our region, and the true dangers posed by those Middle Eastern countries that are possessing or pursuing weapons of mass destruction and even make use of them against civilians, including their own.

The tabling of a contentious Arab draft resolution under the requested agenda item will neither assist in the building of confidence and trust, paramount to any useful direct regional consultations, nor hasten the outcome of such a process. It will only serve to politicize the IAEA and harm its credibility.

Israel hopes that the Arab Group refrains from tabling a draft resolution, and that a message of rejection of the draft resolution is clearly conveyed to the Arab group by the majority of IAEA member states.