



60 Years

IAEA *Atoms for Peace and Development*

General Conference

GC(61)/17

Date: 20 July 2017

General Distribution

Original: English

Sixty-first regular session

Item 22 of the provisional agenda
(GC(61)/1 and Add.1)

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 17 July 2017 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.

PERMANENT MISSION OF ISRAEL
TO THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY AND
THE CTBTO PREPCOM



נציגות הקבע של ישראל
לסוכנות הבינלאומית לאנרגיה אטומית ולועדה המכינה
של הארגון ליישום האמנה למניעת ניסויים גרעיניים

17 July 2017

Excellency,

In reference to document GC(61)/1/Add.1 dated 30 June 2017, I have the honour to convey the position of the State of Israel in the enclosed document.

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

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Merav Zafary-Odiz



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 Sudan on behalf of the Arab States that are members of the IAEA dated 22 June 2017, to include in the agenda of the 61st General Conference (GC) an item entitled "Israeli nuclear capabilities," Israel wishes to state its position as follows:

Similar Arab initiatives and draft resolutions were already introduced and rejected by a growing majority of the Agency's member states in the 2010, 2013, 2014 and 2015 General Conferences. In 2016, the issue was placed on the agenda; however, a draft resolution was not submitted. While Israel viewed the Arab Group's refrainment from submitting a resolution under this agenda item as an encouraging step, we regretted the imposition of this issue on the agenda of the General Conference. It is therefore highly lamentable that the Arab States chose once again to impose upon the General Conference this agenda item. It manifests a contentious, biased and fundamentally flawed approach, which imposes on the General Conference a politicized discussion that is completely outside the scope of the IAEA's Statute and mandate, unrelated to its agenda, and injurious to the Agency's credibility as a professional organization.

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 obligations and commitments, but also masks their refusal to engage sincerely with Israel.

Israel values the non-proliferation regime, acknowledges its significance, and continues to implement a responsible policy and restraint in the nuclear domain. The most substantial threats to the non-proliferation regime and the NPT stem from Middle Eastern countries that pursued, or aspire for nuclear weapons under the guise of their NPT membership. Iraq, Libya, Iran, and Syria, supporters of this

Arab sponsored anti-Israeli initiative, were found to be in flagrant violation of their international obligations and commitments in this regard.

It should be emphasized that only through direct engagement emanating from the region, and the promotion of decisions based on the widely-accepted principle of consensus, will Israel and its Arab neighbors be able to initiate a dialogue on the broad range of regional security challenges, including growing threats that stem from the rise of terror organizations and non-state actors.

Tabling a politically-motivated draft resolution entitled "Israeli nuclear capabilities" under the requested agenda item would decidedly obstruct any attempt to establish such engagement. It would further divert attention from the dire situation in many parts of our region, and the true dangers posed by those Middle Eastern countries that possess or pursue weapons of mass destruction, and even make use of them against civilians, including their own. This attempt 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 thus hopes that the Arab Group refrains from tabling flawed draft resolutions this year, and in the years to come, as well as refrain from placing this issue on the Agency's agenda altogether.