

General Conference

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Item 21 of the provisional agenda
(GC(64)/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 Rafael Mariano Grossi received a letter dated 16 July 2020 from the Permanent 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.

16 July 2020

Excellency,

In reference to document GC(64)/1/Add.1, dated 8 July 2020, 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.

David Nusbaum

Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Israel
To the IAEA and the CTBTO PrepCom



H.E. Mr. Rafael Mariano Grossi

Director General

International Atomic Energy Agency

In reference to a request submitted by the Ambassador of the Republic of Yemen on behalf of the Arab States that are members of the IAEA, dated 25 June 2020, to include in the agenda of the 64th 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 the past four years, the issue was placed on the agenda, however a draft resolution was not submitted. Placing this issue on the agenda, year after year, serves no purpose other than to encumber the General Conference and to impede its proceedings with politicization and distraction. Excluding this issue from the agenda of the GC would allow the IAEA and its Member States to direct the necessary attention and resources to the global challenges that the Agency is facing. At a time when Member States are facing a unique challenge following the outbreak of COVID19, the Agency is playing a key role in a united effort to assist Member States. Israel shared its experience, best practices and knowledge with many countries and participated in joint R&D projects led by the Agency. It is unfortunate, that instead of uniting forces against a worldwide pandemic a few countries are keen on pushing politically motivated agendas.

Israel regrets that this issue is once again imposed by the Arab Group on the agenda of the General Conference. This manifests a contentious, biased and fundamentally flawed approach, which politicizes the discussion in the General Conference. This issue is completely outside the scope of the IAEA's Statute and

mandate, is unrelated to its agenda, and is injurious to the Agency's credibility as a professional organization.

Israel values the non-proliferation regime, acknowledges its significance, and continues to implement a responsible policy of self-restraint in the nuclear realm. Israel has held a consistently constructive approach regarding the possibility of a direct regional security dialogue with its neighbors, based on consensus, inclusiveness and emanating from within the region. The practice of singling Israel out will only continue to undermine regional confidence and trust, and divert attention from the real regional security challenges. The insistence on Israel's joining the NPT masks the refusal of a few Arab states, as well as the Islamic Republic of Iran, to engage sincerely and directly with Israel on regional security issues. It also ignores the repeated violations by Middle Eastern members of the Treaty that aspired for nuclear weapons under the guise of NPT membership. Iraq, Libya, Iran, and Syria, supporters of this anti-Israeli initiative, were all found to be in flagrant violation of their international obligations and commitments in this regard, and some continue to pursue banned weapons of mass destruction, while denying Agency's access to undeclared sites. It is absurd, that one of the main supporters behind such a harmful initiative is a country that only a few weeks ago was urged by the international community to immediately cooperate with the Agency.

Tabling a politically-motivated draft resolution entitled "Israeli nuclear capabilities" under the requested agenda item would decidedly obstruct any attempt to establish direct regional engagement, and will only serve Iran and its supporters in the Arab Group. It would further divert attention from the dire situation in many parts of the region, and the true dangers posed by those Middle Eastern countries that possess or pursue weapons of mass destruction,

and even use them against their own civilians. This attempt will neither assist in the building of confidence and trust, paramount to any meaningful 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.