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Item 22 of the provisional agenda
(GC(67)/1, Add.1, Add.2, Add.3, Add.4, Add.5 and Add.6)

Communication received from the Permanent Representative of Israel regarding the request to include in the agenda of the Conference an item entitled “Status of Palestine in the International Atomic Energy Agency”

1. The Director General received a letter dated 8 September 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Israel, enclosing a document 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 “Status of Palestine in the International Atomic Energy Agency”.
2. As requested, the letter and its enclosure are herewith circulated for the attention of all IAEA Member States.



September 8, 2023

Excellency,

In reference to document GC(67)/1/Add.5, dated 25 August 2023, I have the honor 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.



Sincerely,

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 the request submitted by the Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates, Chairman of the Council of Arab Ambassadors, on behalf of the Arab States that are members of the IAEA, to include the item titled "Status of Palestine in the IAEA" in the agenda of the 67th (2023) session of the IAEA General Conference, Israel wishes to state its position as follows:

- Israel regrets that this issue is being imposed by the Arab Group on the agenda as it imports immaterial matters into professional discussions and dangerously politicize the work of the General Conference. Given the extensive past experience in other international organizations, there is a genuine concern that the Agency and its mechanisms will be drawn into political disputes and will be used as a platform to advance a narrow political agenda. Therefore, Israel objects to this request.
- Israel would like to underline that the IAEA's objective is "to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world" (IAEA Statute, Article II). The IAEA is an autonomous international organization in a working relationship with the United Nations, and it is not obligated to adopt United Nations General Assembly resolutions, even resolutions relating to the Agency itself. Thus, it is important to emphasize that the IAEA is not required to adopt a resolution applying UNGA resolution 67/19 within the IAEA.
- Inclusion of this item in the agenda of the General Conference would interfere with focusing the attention of the IAEA, its Member States and their resources to the well-known urgent challenges that the Agency is facing.
- It should be stressed that any resolution that the IAEA General Conference will take regarding the status of the Palestinian entity will be solely of a declarative nature and will have no substantive bearing. Furthermore, it is not the place of the IAEA nor does it have the legal authority to make policy decisions or express an opinion concerning the legal status of any entity.
- To conclude, Israel strongly objects to the inclusion of the proposed item and hopes that the Arab Group refrains from tabling a draft resolution under this agenda item this year, and in the years to come, as well as refrains from placing this issue on the Agency's agenda altogether.