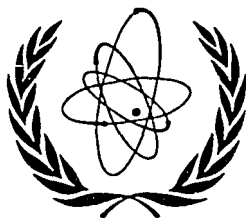


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STATEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

The attached text of a statement issued by the Government of Saudi Arabia is being circulated for the information of Member States at the request of the Saudi Arabian Resident Representative.

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STATEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

In pursuance of the firm policy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to promote peace throughout the world, so that mankind may enjoy peace itself and its positive effects on human well-being and socio-economic development, the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has always supported and continues to support all efforts aimed at curbing the proliferation of destructive weapons in the world as a whole as well as in every region of the world.

It has likewise always supported and continues to support the establishment of zones free from such weapons in every part of the globe.

In implementing this constructive, peace-loving policy, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, has been complying with its provisions and has been supporting in various international forums efforts to ban chemical and bacteriological weapons.

The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is firmly convinced that the region of the Middle East, which has suffered from numerous wars and has been weighed down by the burden of producing and importing various weapons of mass destruction - nuclear, chemical and bacteriological - needs, more than any other region in the world, to be free from such destructive weapons so that it can solve its problems peacefully without resort to war and destruction.

In line with its policy of supporting peace everywhere in the world, the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia wishes to express its sincere desire and complete willingness to comply with any ban (quantitative or qualitative) on weapons of mass destruction in the region of the Middle East - provided that the prohibition is equally binding on all the countries of the region - whether it applies to production or to the import of such weapons or aims at achieving a balance of military power. The Kingdom also expresses its readiness, should any elements of such a ban apply to any of the weapons available in the Kingdom, to be among the first countries in the region to get rid of such weapons.

The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is also willing to contribute positively and constructively to any study aimed at decisions of an international framework for a regime banning such weapons in the region, to the establishment of appropriate principles for such a regime, and to specifying its stages of implementation.

Moreover, in line with its earnest desire for peace in the region of the Middle East and its persistent efforts in that direction with a view to creating confidence among the countries in the region and thereby achieving the elimination of weapons of mass destruction and removing the cause for the arms race in this region, the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia once more emphasizes its support, in this area, for the initiative of President George Bush of the United States aimed at banning weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. It appeals to all the countries in the region to respond earnestly to this noble objective and calls upon all countries in the world to urge those in the region to realize this objective.

In expressing its support for the American initiative and for every initiative directed to the same goal, and in declaring its sincere desire and full willingness to comply with such a ban, the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia looks forward to the time when the Kingdom, together with the other countries in the region, will be able to implement this ban so that peace, security, stability and prosperity may reign in the Middle East for the benefit of the peoples in the region and of mankind as a whole.