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**STATEMENT BY THE IRAQI MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
ON THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF IRAQ'S RATIFICATION OF THE
TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS (NPT)**

The attached statement is being circulated at the request of the Resident Representative of Iraq.

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**Statement by the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs
on the twentieth anniversary of Iraq's ratification
of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)**

Iraq is celebrating the twentieth anniversary of its ratification of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) - of which Iraq was among the first signatories, thus expressing its profound belief in the Treaty's objectives and its principles in the field of international relations through sincere and serious participation in the efforts of the international community to establish a new world free from means of destruction and annihilation and to strengthen the foundations of peace and security for mankind.

As a developing country, Iraq realized early that atomic energy can play a significant role in the scientific and developmental programmes of various social and economic sectors, serving the interests of all States and in particular those of the developing countries. In 1987, in his message to the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, President Saddam Hussein emphasized the right of all States "to acquire and use nuclear technology for such purposes according to their priorities, interests and needs under appropriate, agreed international safeguards to prevent all kinds of nuclear proliferation, without any discrimination" and urged the Conference participants "to create a positive atmosphere for the promotion and development of international co-operation, eschewing attempts to hinder the transfer of peaceful nuclear technology and to apply pressure on developing countries to prevent them from proceeding with their peaceful nuclear programmes".

In celebrating this anniversary, Iraq recalls that on 7 June 1981 its nuclear research centre was subjected to heinous armed aggression carried out by Israeli fighter aircraft. This aggression constituted a dangerous precedent and was considered by the Security Council, in resolution 487(1981), to be "a serious threat to the entire IAEA safeguards regime which is the foundation of the non-proliferation Treaty". Moreover, the Agency, in many resolutions, described this aggression as an attack on the Agency itself and its safeguards system.

NPT, in letter and spirit, reflects the belief of the States party to it that the destruction caused by nuclear war must be avoided and that nuclear proliferation would lead to a serious increase in the danger of nuclear war and weaken the security of all States; thus, the question of the proliferation of nuclear weapons should be taken seriously by all States. The introduction of nuclear weapons into the Middle East by Israel is not only a severe blow to the international non-proliferation efforts being made since the inception of NPT - it also reflects an irresponsible policy harmful to the continuing efforts to protect the region from the dangers of the arms race in

all its forms and to make it a nuclear-free zone. This policy is exposing the region to serious developments whose consequences for international peace and security are unknown.

The collaboration between Israel and the racist regime of South Africa confirms Israel's constant endeavour to frustrate the non-proliferation efforts and aspirations of the international community and is contributing seriously to the risk of nuclear weapons proliferation to other regions of the world, thereby increasing tension and instability.

Now, over twenty years after NPT was opened for signature, Iraq more than ever is convinced of the need for international pressure, exerted especially by the depository States, on Israel in order to force it forthwith to discard its nuclear weapons, renounce the possession of such weapons, subject all its nuclear activities to full-scope safeguards, help in making the Middle East a nuclear-free zone and abide by all relevant resolutions adopted by the international community - especially Security Council resolution 487(1981). These are matters to which the Fourth NPT Review Conference, to be held this year, should give serious consideration, with a view to adopting measures that ensure the implementation of the Treaty.

Iraq, which welcomes the detente in international relations and the ongoing serious negotiations among States on the control of all types of weapons, believes that the most effective guarantee against the possible use of nuclear weapons and the danger of nuclear war is nuclear disarmament and the total elimination of nuclear weapons.