

Information Circular

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Communication dated 10 December 2012 received from the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco to the Agency

1. The Secretariat has received a note verbale dated 10 December 2012 from the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco to the Agency, enclosing a statement made by Morocco on behalf of the Arab Group, during the November 2012 session of the Board of Governors under the agenda item “Any Other Business”.
2. The aforementioned communication and, as requested by the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco, the enclosed statement are herewith circulated for the information of Member States.

Mission Permanente du Royaume du Maroc
Auprès des Organisations Internationales
Vienne



البعثة الدائمة للمملكة المغربية
لدى المنظمات الدولية
فيينا

ATL/AA352-12 / F.

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco to International Organizations in Vienna presents its compliments to the International Atomic Energy Agency and has the honour to enclose herewith, the declaration made by H.E. Ali ELMHAMDI, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Morocco, President of the Arab Council, during the November Board of Governors under the item "any other business", for distribution, and to be considered as an official document.

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco to the International Organizations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the International Atomic Energy Agency the assurances of its highest consideration.



Vienna, December 10th, 2012

**International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna**

**Statement of the Arab Group to the November 2012 session
of the IAEA Board of Governors
concerning “Israeli nuclear capabilities” under agenda item 6 “Any other business”
29 November 2012¹**

Mr Chairman,

I am delivering this statement on behalf of the Arab Group to remind the Board that the IAEA General Conference adopted resolution GC(53)/RES/17 in September 2009 entitled “Israeli nuclear capabilities”, which called upon Israel to accede to the NPT and place all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive Agency safeguards and expressed deep concern about the Israeli nuclear capabilities outside the NPT regime.

Also, the NPT Review Conference which was held in May 2010 contained in its final document confirmation of the importance of Israel’s accession to the Treaty and placement of all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive IAEA safeguards.

Mr Chairman,

The Arab States confirm that the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons as well as other weapons of mass destruction was not considered only an Arab demand but a demand of the international community as a whole after it was endorsed by the States Party at the 2010 Review Conference, and also is based on implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East which was adopted by the three depositary nuclear-weapon States of the Treaty.

The Arab Group in Vienna expresses its regret at the decision of the organizers of the 2012 conference on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East to postpone the conference which it had been decided to convene this year, since the Council of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level had previously rejected any attempts to postpone the conference.

The Arab Group reaffirms that every State of the region, except Israel, showed its willingness to participate in the conference and requested convening of the conference at the time agreed upon at the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

The Arab Group believes that the decision to postpone this conference will reflect negatively on regional security and on the international nuclear non-proliferation regime as a whole.

Recognizing the efforts made by the facilitator to convene the 2012 conference, the Arab Group expects the parties organizing the conference to assume their responsibilities in accordance with the final document of the 2010 Review Conference, which stipulated 2012 as the time for convening the conference.

Mr Chairman,

When the issue of its nuclear capabilities is raised at the Agency, Israel not only categorically refuses to apply resolution GC(53)/RES/17 and the resolution of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, but proceeds to downplay the Treaty, declaring it to be ineffective in the Middle East, whereas in reality just the opposite is true; in order for the Treaty to be fully effective and universal in the Middle East, Israel would have to accede to it and comply with its provisions.

¹ Translator’s note: “Any other business” was item 5 of the agenda and was discussed on 30 November 2012.

Deliberations at the General Conference sessions have confirmed that a large group of Member States continue to be concerned about the growing danger of the Israeli nuclear capabilities and the threat posed to security and peace in the Middle East and the world.

Mr Chairman,

While all the Arab States have acceded to the NPT, and demonstrated their complete willingness to take practical steps to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, Israel continues, as Israeli officials have stated publicly on various occasions, to defy the international community through its persistent refusal to accede to the NPT and place all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive Agency safeguards, and its rejection of all international initiatives in this regard, thereby impeding the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

We should mention in this regard that concern about the Israeli nuclear danger is exacerbated by Israel's continuing aggressive policies and practices vis-à-vis the Arab States, threatening peace and security in the region.

It is very strange that, while Israel consistently maintains that the achievement of comprehensive peace in the region is a precondition for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, it — that is Israel — seeks unremittingly in parallel to quash peace efforts and thwart every initiative aimed at the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

Mr Chairman,

The Arab Group expresses regret that some active Member States, including nuclear-weapon States which persistently defend the principle of universality of the NPT, continue to turn a blind eye to this principle whenever the question of the Israeli nuclear capabilities arises, confirming the application of double standards in this regard.

In this context, the Arab Group confirms that action against nuclear proliferation in the Middle East should not be regarded as politicization of the Agency's work but as an international endeavour to address the Israeli nuclear danger which threatens the security of the States and peoples of the Middle East, particularly as Israel is the only State in the region not to have acceded to the NPT.

In light of the foregoing, the Arab Group requests that the item "Israeli nuclear capabilities" remain under discussion in the policy-making organs of the Agency, and urges in this regard the Agency Member States to support the achievement of universality of the NPT and attainment of the goal of ridding the Middle East of nuclear weapons, thereby preserving stability and peace in the region..

Thank you, Mr Chairman