

Information Circular

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General Distribution

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Communication dated 21 July 2022 received from the Permanent Mission of Egypt to the Agency

1. The Secretariat has received a Note Verbale dated 21 July 2022 from the Permanent Mission of Egypt to the Agency.
2. As requested, the Note Verbale is herewith circulated for the information of all Member States.



EMBASSY
OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT
PERMANENT MISSION
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ORGANISATIONS
VIENNA

21 July 2022
UN/359/22

NOTE VERBALE

The Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Vienna presents its Compliments to the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and with reference to the background paper presented by the Secretariat in relation to the Agency's activities regarding article III of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), has the honour to highlight the following points:

- 1- Egypt is a staunch advocate of the IAEA safeguards system and the independent role the Agency plays as the sole competent authority responsible for the verification of the fulfilment of safeguards obligations assumed by States parties under article III of the Treaty.
- 2- While Egypt underscores the importance of the efforts exerted by the Secretariat of the IAEA, as it continues to deliver on its safeguards and verification mandate, it has been observed that the above-mentioned background paper, which is meant to highlight the various IAEA's activities in this regard, has not included the pertinent reference to the IAEA's efforts and endeavours in applying its full scope safeguards in the Middle East in accordance with the annual resolution the General Conference adopts every year since 1991.
- 3- The Secretariat has decided against the inclusion a reference to the IAEA's activities in the application of full scope safeguards in the Middle East despite Egypt communicating several requests to the Secretariat to do so in light of the relevant noteworthy developments in the region, including the IAEA's participation in the First and Second United Nations' Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction, and in spite of the fact that the aforementioned background paper includes references to other verification related issues in the Middle East which are beyond Article III related activities.

- 4- The purpose of this resolution is to support the Agency's safeguards activities under article III of the NPT. The General Conferences and the NPT Review Conferences have attributed the utmost importance to the accession of all States in the Middle East to the NPT and to the placement of all nuclear activities in the region under comprehensive safeguards.
- 5- The fact that the General Conference of the IAEA addresses this crucial topic on an annual basis and adopts the aforementioned resolution is a perfect display of the high priority the international community has always accorded to enhancing the effectiveness and credibility of the NPT, averting the risk of nuclear proliferation in the region and establishing a Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction in the Middle East.
- 6- Accordingly, and given the inextricable link between the application of the IAEA's comprehensive Safeguards in the Middle East and the Agency's relevant activities under article III of the NPT, it is regrettable that the Secretariat's background paper failed to include the necessary and appropriate reference to this issue, which constitutes an essential component of IAEA's safeguards mission and mandate.

The Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt requests the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to circulate this Note Verbale as Information Circular to all IAEA Member States.

The Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the Policy-Making Organs of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the assurances of its highest consideration.

