



# **STATEMENT**

By

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International Atomic Energy Agency**

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Mr. President, distinguished delegates,

Let me begin my address, by congratulating you, Mr. President, upon your election to preside over the 54<sup>th</sup> General Conference of the IAEA. I can assure you the full cooperation of my Delegation in carrying out your important task.

I also wish to congratulate the kingdom of Swaziland as a new member of the Agency.

Mr. President,

In my address, I would have wished to dwell, as many other delegates, on many important issues such as, the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, nuclear safeguards, security and safety, as fit the spirit and the mission of the IAEA. Regrettably, the Agenda of the General Conference, is occupied by anti - Israeli items submitted with a clear purpose, to avoid discussion of serious violations of the NPT and Safeguards obligations by states in the Middle East. I'm therefore obliged to focus my address on these severe and most urgent topics.

Recently, the Conference has witnessed continuous ill-motivated efforts to **single out** and to **condemn** the State of Israel. Not surprisingly, there is much similarity between those countries that are in the forefront of attacking the State of Israel, and

Middle Eastern violators of the NPT and the IAEA Safeguards Agreements. Such a tactic intended at **diverting the attention** of the General Conference, as well as the international community, from the real challenges and cases of dangerous proliferation and non-compliance.

Mr. President,

The Director General's recent Reports to the Board of Governors on Iran, and Syria are extremely disturbing. Let us be reminded that only few days after the closure of last year's General Conference, the international community was stunned by the incriminating details of Iran's Qum enrichment plant. This plant had been constructed in secrecy for years, in violation of Iran's international obligations and commitments. In response, the Board of Governors urged Iran, in its Resolution of 27 November 2009, to suspend immediately construction at Qum. As is evident in subsequent reports of the Director General, Iran continues its relentless pursuit of nuclear weapons in complete disregard of all relevant resolutions taken by the international community. Syria's non-cooperation with the Agency has also been recorded in the Report.

Mr. President,

Israel is **gravely concerned** by these and other negative developments in the Middle East, which have distanced the region from genuine peace and security. It is therefore highly regrettable that the recent NPT Review Conference, has also failed to address today's greatest threat of proliferation in the Middle East, which is posed by Iran's nuclear program. Any approach, that instead, **singles out the State of Israel**, not only weakens the ability of the international community to confront proliferators and violators, but also **defeats the prospect** for the advancement of arms control measures, in the Middle East region.

Mr. President,

The Arab league - sponsored resolution entitled, "Israeli Nuclear Capabilities", is a major tool in the service of a continuous political campaign, to defame the State of Israel.

As the General Conference is forced to deal, once again, with what has become an annual detracting element in its discussions, I wish to state **loud and clear** the position of Israel, that the proposed resolution, is **incompatible with basic principles and norms of international law**, and **does not fall within the**

**mandate of the Agency** as defined in its statute. Moreover, this resolution that calls upon Israel to accede to the NPT, ignores adverse reality in the Middle East region. I wish to remind all delegates that **four Middle Eastern member states**, parties to the NPT , namely, Iran, Syria, Libya and Iraq under Saddam Hussien, have grossly violated their treaty obligations. These four cases make it absolutely clear, that the NPT is unable to adequately address the security challenges of the Middle East region. where the Treaty has been mostly abused. The serious threat to the NPT and the non-proliferation regime, **is posed from within**, by those states that pursue nuclear weapons, under the cover of their NPT membership. NPT accession **can not therefore be a goal in itself**, separated from the broad agenda of **regional peace and security**, in all its aspects. Genuine regional arms control arrangements in the Middle East , can only be advanced as a consequence of a **comprehensive and durable peace in the region**, and **full compliance**, by all regional states, with their arms control and non-proliferation obligations. This has also been the proven experience of other regions. **No majority vote at international fora**, can serve as a substitute for wide regional consent and cooperation.

Mr. President,

A leading member state in the Middle East, with the support of others in the region, is constantly disrupting the conduct of the General Conference, by repeatedly loading it with anti – Israeli Agenda items. May I suggest to those states who are truly interested in regional security, to demonstrate instead, the so much needed regional good will and trust, by admitting Israel to the IAEA's MESA regional group, where it belongs by geography, and to which it has been denied so far. How can one realistically expect to move forward towards establishing a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, **where Israel's basic rights are denied**? Isn't it an imperative to advance reconciliation, mutual recognition and peace, prior to embarking on ambitious arms control plans?

Mr. President,

The preamble of the NPT clarifies that, the treaty is designed "for a political environment, where states must refrain in their international relations from the threat, or use of force, against the territorial integrity, or political independence

of any state". It also clarifies that its members, should share the overall objective of attaining "Peace and Security".

Needless to say, Mr. President, the Middle East has yet to make progress towards such a desirable environment. Moreover, accession to international treaties, is the **sovereign right of any state to decide**, whether it consents to be bound by any treaty. The Agency itself is required to carry out its activities "with due observance of the sovereign rights of states", as clearly stipulated in Article III (D) of IAEA's Statute. Indeed, the advancement of states accession to international treaties, **does not fall within the mandate of the Agency**. As a matter of a well-known fact, Israel is not the only member state in the IAEA's MESA region that has exercised its sovereign right **not** to accede to the NPT, due to its national security considerations. Yet, Israel is the only state that has been singled out, and is called upon to take a decision, which is against its **best national interests**. It's worth noting that some other states delayed their accession to the NPT, until they judges that their security challenges were conformed in a satisfactory manner.

Mr. President,

I would like to restate and to emphasize, that Israel values the non-proliferation regime, acknowledges its importance, and has

always demonstrated a **responsible policy of restraint** in the nuclear domain.

Mr. President,

Agenda Item 19 entitled "Application of IAEA Safeguards in the Middle East", **enjoyed consensus** at the General Conference for 14 consecutive years until 2005. The consensus demonstrated a regional common understanding about the vision of the Middle East as a zone, free of WMD and their delivery systems. Regrettably, consensus became unattainable ever since, as the sponsor of the resolution, Egypt, must have lost its interest in the conversion of the Middle East into a nuclear weapons free zone. Instead, the **singling out of Israel**, has been set as **principal goal**, and was given priority over meaningful discussion of regional security in the Middle East. **No less troubling** is the apparent evidence in the Safeguards Implementation Report of 2009, that Egypt, the sponsor of this Resolution, does not itself fully comply with its safeguards agreement with the Agency, as it is called for in the Resolution. In addition, Egypt refrains from ratifying the African Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty known as Palindaba Treaty, which recently entered into force. Israel rejects this **double standard** by those that have failed to satisfy the IAEA about their

suspicious nuclear activities and continue to display a defiant position. Had our neighbors **truly wished** to move forward in the Middle East region, they would have turned to **dialogue**, instead of embarking in this General Conference on a harmful political campaign.

Mr. President,

There is close association between the threat to **proliferation** in the Middle East, and the threat of **nuclear terrorism** supported by rouge states. This concern was dealt thoroughly at the Global Summit on Nuclear Security, convened upon the initiative of President Barack Obama, in Washington D.C last April. This recognition has brought Israel, to join the Megaport Initiative led by the US Department of Energy. The Initiative, intends to prevent possible illicit trafficking of radioactive and nuclear materials, and to combat nuclear terrorism. Living up to its responsibilities as an active member state of GICNT, Israel hosted in June 2010, a successful GICNT workshop on "nuclear forensics and legal aspects of combating radiological and nuclear terrorism". With more than 100 participants from over 20 countries, including **leading experts**, the workshop succeeded to produce a clear report on how to develop this

important field within the framework of the Initiative. Nevertheless, Israel's participation in the subsequent GICNT meeting, which took place in the Middle East region, was regrettably denied by the host country Abu-Dhabi. Such a political discrimination harms the prospect of improved regional trust, which is so much needed in the Middle East, if one aims at better regional security.

Mr. President,

The Government of Israel is appreciative of the recent visit to Israel of the Director General of the IAEA, Mr. Yukiya Amano. During his visit, the Director General was presented with various projects, which are performed in cooperation with the IAEA's Technical Cooperation Program. Mr. Amano visited the Sharett Institute of Oncology and Radiotherapy at the Hadassah hospital. He was introduced to the activities of scientists and physicians in the field of **cancer treatment**, and **nuclear medicine**. Israel, a founding member of the Agency, recognizes the importance of the Agency's education and training program, for the safe, secure and efficient development, of the nuclear field. Accordingly, it participates in a significant number of professional activities of the Agency, and strives to increase its contributions to its work.

Israel avails the results of its extensive scientific researches, to developing countries. The Sharet Institute at the Haddasa Medical Center in Jerusalem, is not only among the best, but is also constantly providing training and assistance to our Palestinian neighbors, as well as to many developing countries.

Mr. President,

Israel rejects the transparent policy and efforts by violators of the NPT and Safeguards Agreements in the Middle East, to constantly blaming it for all their ills, instead of addressing and correcting their gross violations of international norms and obligations. The international community is at a **critical crossroad**, in confronting fundamental threats, posed by a **small number of states**. These states are challenging the world's order, and put regional and global peace and security at much risk. The international community and its institutions should struggle for adequate responses. It is incumbent upon the General Conference of the IAEA, to prevent those member states from inflicting irreparable damage on the non-proliferation regime, and the Agency itself.

Thank you Mr. President.