

Statement by Egypt
on behalf of the Group of Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement
Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
at the First Session of the Preparatory Committee
for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the
Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
on
Cluster 2 Specific issue - Regional issues, including with respect to the Middle East and
implementation of the 1995 Middle East Resolution
Vienna, 8 May 2012

Mr. Chairman,

1. I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Group of Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.
2. The Movement attaches great importance to peace, security and stability in the Middle East. In this regard, the Movement strongly supports the establishment in the Middle East of a nuclear-weapon-free zone which is essential to the maintenance and strengthening of international peace and security.
3. Based on this principled position, and since the proposal to establish a nuclear weapon-free zone in the Middle East was put forward, the Movement has always supported all regional and international efforts aimed at the realization of this proposal.
4. In this regard, the Group strongly supports the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, as a priority, and reiterates its call for the full implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East, which is an integral and essential part of the package of decisions reached without a vote that enabled the indefinite extension of the Treaty in 1995. This resolution remains valid until its objectives are achieved as further reaffirmed by the States Parties at the 2010 Review Conference.
5. Likewise, the Group welcomes the adoption by consensus of a detailed plan of action on the implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East by the 2010 Review Conference and urges the United Nations Secretary General and the co-sponsors of the 1995 Resolution, in consultation with the States of the region, to convene, and exert utmost efforts in ensuring the success of, a Conference in 2012 to be attended by all States of the Middle East on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction.

6. The Group expresses deep concern over the delay in the implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East, and while recalling that the 2010 Review Conference emphasized *"the importance of a process leading to full implementation of the objectives of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East"*, the Group stresses the importance of the full implementation of the plan of action and the active and constructive engagement by all parties concerned to allow for the success of the 2012 Conference in leading to the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction.

7. While welcoming the appointment of a facilitator, H.E. Mr. Jaakko Laajava, and the designation of a host government, Finland, for the 2012 Conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, the Group calls on the facilitator to accelerate consultations with all capitals in the region and to exert maximum efforts with a view to convening the Conference at the earliest possible date in 2012.

8. The Group underscores that the implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East and the convening of a successful 2012 Conference are integral and essential parts of the implementation of the consensus "Conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions" of the 2010 Review Conference of the Treaty. Accordingly, the Group stresses that, as clearly stipulated by the 2010 Review Conference, the Conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction shall be convened in the year 2012, and that any delay will seriously jeopardize the overall implementation of the "Conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions" and will represent a major setback in this regard.

9. The Group emphasizes the mandated responsibility of the United Nations Secretary-General and the commitments and special responsibility of the co-sponsors of the 1995 Resolution regarding the convening of the 2012 Conference, and accordingly calls upon them to accelerate their efforts to ensure the convening of a successful Conference in the year 2012. Furthermore, the Group calls upon the facilitator to exert maximum efforts for more intensive and regular consultations and coordination with all States of the region on all aspects of the 2012 Conference, starting well in advance of its convening.

10. The Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the Treaty remains gravely concerned by the statement made by the then Prime Minister of Israel on 11 December 2006 in which he publicly admitted the possession of nuclear weapons by Israel. In this regard, the Group reaffirms the continued validity of the Statement of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement on this subject issued on 10 May 2007.

11. In this context, the Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the Treaty further expresses great concern over the acquisition of nuclear capabilities by Israel, which pose a serious and continuing threat to the security of neighbouring and other States, and condemns Israel for continuing to develop and stockpile nuclear arsenals. The Group also reaffirms that stability cannot be achieved in a region where massive imbalances in military capabilities are maintained, particularly through the possession of nuclear weapons, which allows one party to threaten its neighbours and the region, and constitutes a threat to international peace and security.

12. The Group expresses its serious concern that no progress has been achieved with regard to Israel's accession to the Treaty, and placing all its nuclear facilities under the IAEA full-scope safeguards, and over the delay in the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, all of which are objectives and priorities that were stressed in Review Conferences of the Treaty in 1995, 2000 and 2010.

13. Therefore, the Group demands on Israel, the only country in the region that has neither joined the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons nor declared its intention to do so, to renounce possession of nuclear weapons, to accede to the Treaty without any precondition or further delay, as a non-nuclear-weapon State, to place promptly all its nuclear facilities under IAEA full-scope safeguards in accordance with the Security Council Resolution 487 (1981), and to conduct all its nuclear-related activities in full conformity with the non-proliferation regime, in realizing the goal of universal adherence to the Treaty, in particular in the Middle East.

14. The Group reaffirms that the nuclear-weapon States, in conformity with their legal obligations under Article I of the Treaty, shall solemnly undertake not to transfer nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, or control over such weapons or explosive devices directly or indirectly to Israel, and further undertake not, in any way, to assist, encourage or induce Israel to manufacture or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices or control over such weapons or explosive devices under any circumstances whatsoever.

15. The Group, in conformity with the Treaty, reaffirms its commitment to the effective prohibition of the transfer of all nuclear-related equipment, information, material and facilities, resources or devices, and the extension of know-how or any kind of assistance in the nuclear, scientific or technological fields to Israel, as long as it remains a non-party to the Treaty and has not placed all its nuclear facilities under IAEA full-scope safeguards.

16. The Group also calls for the total and complete prohibition of the transfer, by any State, of all nuclear-related equipment, information, material and facilities, resources or devices and the extension of assistance in the nuclear-related scientific or technological fields to Israel. In this regard, the Group expresses its serious concern over the Israeli scientists' continued access to the nuclear facilities of one nuclear-weapon State which has potentially serious negative implications on security in the region as well as the reliability of the global non-proliferation regime.

17. The Group emphasizes the importance of submitting required reports by all States Parties to the Treaty, in particular the co-sponsors of the 1995 Resolution, as well as the facilitator of the 2012 Conference. It is essential that the successive sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference conduct substantive discussions on the reports and to evaluate the fulfilment of the commitments on the implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East.

18. Moreover, the Group requests the establishment of a subsidiary body to Main Committee II of the 2015 Review Conference to assess the implementation of the Resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference and reaffirmed by the 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences of the Treaty.

19. In the view of the Group, the adoption by consensus of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, as well as a detailed plan of action by the 2010 Review Conference during which the *“States Parties renewed their resolve to undertake, individually and collectively, all necessary measures aimed at its prompt implementation”*, reflects the universal support for the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction.

20. In conclusion, the Group reaffirms once again its determination to extend fullest cooperation and to exert utmost efforts with a view to ensuring the early establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. The Group is of the view that the 2012 Conference should lead, without further delay, to the universal adherence to the Treaty in the Middle East and the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.