



8 August 2022

**Statement by Loureen Sayej, Third Secretary, before the Main Committee II of Tenth Review Conference of the Parties of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

Thank you Madam Chair,

Allow me to congratulate you for chairing Main Committee II and assure you of Palestine's full support.

We align ourselves with the statements made by Jordan on behalf of the Arab Group and Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Just as we reject the fatalism that the existence of nuclear weapons is a reality and a necessity, we also reject that their spread is inevitable and unpreventable.

We reaffirm the mutually reinforcing relationship between nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation; and we state that the failure to implement the former has already and will continue to compromise the achievement of the latter.

On this premise, the State of Palestine reiterates that the IAEA is the only multilateral vehicle of detection and deterrence by which we realize the objective of the Treaty which is: Nuclear-Weapon States will disarm, Non-Nuclear Weapon States will not acquire them, and all States Parties will enjoy their inalienable right to peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

While we recognize the central role of IAEA, we affirm that the primary responsibility for ensuring our collective security rests with Nuclear-Weapon States. Therefore, priority should not be given to preventing horizontal proliferation while ignoring the dangers of vertical proliferation, as embodied in the unabated modernization of nuclear weapons.

Madam Chair,

The progress in preventing proliferation is undoubtedly undermined by Israel's persistent intransigence, exceptionalism, opacity, and unstoppable nuclear capabilities which threaten the security of our region and by extension all regions.

Likewise, Israel's rejection to fulfil its obligations, submit its nuclear programs to the IAEA safeguards, including Dimona, and join the Treaty, compromises both the key norms of nuclear security and safety and the regional and international aspirations for achieving the universality of the Treaty.

In congruent, we call on all States Parties, in particular Nuclear-Weapon States, to ensure the universalization of the Treaty and refrain from assisting or encouraging, including diplomatically, States within or outside the Treaty, from acquiring or maintaining nuclear weapons programs.

Madam Chair,

It must be recognized that the vast majority of the international community had signed treaties establishing nuclear-weapons- free zones, setting the foundation for a world free of nuclear weapons.

The Middle East is not an exception.

We call on all States Parties to strengthen nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation efforts by respecting existing, internationally- recognized nuclear-weapon-free zones, and formalizing the status of prospective ones.

We welcome the establishment of the subsidiary body II on the implementation of the Middle East Zone and reiterate that 1995 Resolution remains valid until its objectives are achieved.

Indeed, this resolution is the biproduct of years of multilateral deliberations. It is enshrined in the Treaty and is the basis of which the Treaty was extended, indefinitely. Failure to implement it will threaten to irreversibly undermine the global non-proliferation efforts.

We thus welcome the successful convening of the two sessions of the Conference on the Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons, under the presidency of both Jordan and Kuwait respectively.

The reality is that the success of the other regional Zones and the effectiveness of the Treaty itself is contiguous on the implementation of the Middle East Zone. Therefore, we call on this Review Conference to ensure the implementation of 1995 resolution and call on the co-sponsors of the resolution to uphold their special responsibilities.

Finally, our deliberations in the coming days should be based on our commitments to the principles of multilateralism, non-discrimination, and full respect for the Treaty, with the aim of achieving full and complete disarmament and elimination of nuclear weapons.

Thank you