



CHAIR NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT VIENNA CHAPTER



Application of IAEA safeguards in the Middle East

Madam Chair,

1. NAM wishes at the outset to thank the Director General for his report on the Application of Safeguards in the Middle East as contained in document GOV/2021/36.
2. Before expressing its comments on the Director General's report, NAM would like to reiterate its principled position on the matter:
 - a. NAM strongly believes that stability cannot be achieved in a region where massive imbalances in military capabilities are maintained particularly through the possession of nuclear weapons, which allow one party to threaten its neighbors, and the region.
 - b. NAM considers the establishment of a nuclear-weapons-free-zone (NWFZ) in the Middle East as a positive step towards attaining the objective of global nuclear disarmament and reiterates its support for the establishment of such a zone in accordance with relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions.
 - c. NAM is convinced that the effective and efficient application of IAEA safeguards in the Middle East promotes greater confidence among States in the region. Accordingly, NAM considers that achieving the universality of comprehensive IAEA safeguards in the Middle East region is the first practical step towards that end, and is a necessary step towards the establishment of a NWFZ therein.

Madam Chair,

3. NAM welcomes that its Member States that are parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) conclude comprehensive safeguards agreements with the Agency in fulfillment of their obligation under paragraph 1 of Article III of the Treaty, as Non-Nuclear- Weapons States (NNWS). NAM notes that all States of the Middle East region except for Israel are parties to the NPT and have undertaken to accept comprehensive Agency safeguards.
4. NAM highlights the accession of the State of Palestine as a State Party to the NPT in February 2015 and welcomes the signing in June 2019 of a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement between the State of Palestine and the Agency in connection with Article III of the NPT (Paragraph 4, Section B of GOV/2018/38).



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5. NAM regrets Israel's continued insistence that Agency safeguards cannot be addressed in isolation from the regional peace process. NAM emphasizes that there is no automatic sequence which links the application of comprehensive safeguards to all nuclear activities in the Middle East, to the prior conclusion of a peace settlement, and that the former would contribute to the latter.
6. NAM also notes with regret that the Director General has not been able to make further progress in fulfilling his mandate pursuant to resolution GC (64)/RES/15 regarding the application of comprehensive Agency safeguards covering all nuclear activities in the Middle East.
7. NAM emphasizes that all Member States should cooperate to reverse this unacceptable situation. NAM encourages the active participation of all Member States in achieving the universality of comprehensive IAEA safeguards in the Middle East region. In this context, NAM requests that when promoting IAEA Safeguards in the Middle East, priority shall be first accorded to achieving the universality of comprehensive IAEA safeguards therein.
8. NAM notes that the Director General will continue with his consultations in accordance with his mandate regarding the early application of comprehensive Agency safeguards on all nuclear activities in the Middle East region. NAM welcomes the Director General's efforts to encourage the development and consideration of relevant new ideas and approaches that could help to move his mandate forward, and requests that the Director General continue to regularly brief Member States on such efforts.
9. NAM States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons recall the consensus decision contained in the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference on convening, in 2012, a Conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. NAM State Parties to the NPT reiterate their profound disappointment that the 2010 action plan on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction has not been implemented. This runs contrary to the letter and spirit of the 1995 Resolution, which constitutes the original terms of reference of establishing this zone. It also violates the collective agreement reached at the 2010 NPT Review Conference.
10. NAM States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons regret that the 2015 NPT Review Conference, despite intensive consultations, was not able to reach agreement on the draft Final Document which could have a negative impact on the NPT regime.



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11. NAM requests the Director General to continue his efforts and consultations with all Member States on arrangements conducive towards the establishment of a NWFZ in the Middle East region.
12. NAM welcomes the Convening Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and other Weapons of Mass Destruction in New York in November 2019, in accordance with the General Assembly Decision 73/546, and also welcomes the final declaration issued by the conference. The Group looks forward to the convening of the second session of the conference under the chairmanship of Kuwait, and calls upon all States of the region, without exception, to actively participate in this Conference and negotiate in good faith and bring to a conclusion a legally-binding Treaty on the establishment of the Zone. The group appreciates the participation of the IAEA in the first round of the conference and the background paper presented thereto and requests the Director General of the IAEA to participate in the second round according to the mandate given by the General Assembly decision.
13. NAM also stresses that the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the NPT, as well as other relevant decisions on the subject, adopted within the context of the Review Conferences, remain valid until the objective of the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East is achieved and that the implementation of decision 73/546 is without prejudice to the validity of aforesaid resolution and decisions and shall not also be construed as their replacement.
14. NAM is fully committed to cooperating with the Director General and supporting his efforts in implementing resolution GC (64)/RES/15. It is NAM's expectation that all other IAEA Member States will do the same.

Thank you, Madam Chair.