

General Conference

GC(51)/25

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Communication received from the Resident Representative of Israel regarding the request to include in the agenda of the Conference an item entitled "Israeli Nuclear Capabilities and Threat"

1. The Director General has received a letter dated 12 September 2007 from the Resident Representative of Israel, relating to the inclusion in the agenda of the Conference of an item entitled "Israeli Nuclear Capabilities and Threat".
2. As requested therein, the letter and its attachment are herewith circulated.



PERMANENT MISSION OF ISRAEL
TO THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY AND
THE PREPCOM - CTBTO

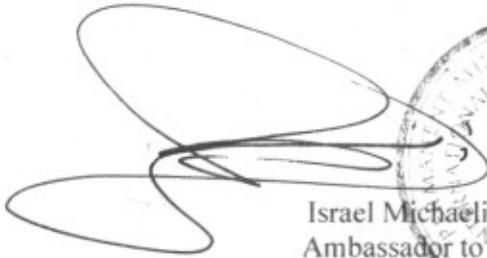
נציגות הקבע של ישראל
לסוכנות הבינלאומית לאנרגיה אטומית ולועדה המכינה
של הארגון ליישום האמנה למניעת ניסויים גרעיניים

12 September 2007

5.8-36-07

Referring to document GC(51)/1/Add.1, dated 16 July 2007, I have the honor to forward to you the position of Israel on the request to include an item entitled "Israeli nuclear capabilities and threat" in the agenda of the 51st General Conference (attached).

I request that this letter and the attachment be circulated to all IAEA Member States.


Israel Michaeli
Ambassador to the IAEA



Mr. Mohamed ElBaradei
Director General
IAEA



Israel's Position on document GC(51)/1/Add.1 (Dated 16 July 2007)

The initiative to include an agenda item entitled "Israeli Nuclear Capabilities and Threat" at the 51st General Conference is unwarranted and damaging. It singles out Israel for the wrong political motivations, while failing to address the most pressing proliferation concerns in the Middle East. Furthermore, it will certainly exacerbate the desirable climate for discussing a potential constructive role for the IAEA.

The introduction of this agenda item draughts Israel's support for the resolution entitled "Application of IAEA Safeguards in the Middle East". This resolution has been adopted by consensus for 14 successive years until last year. Lamentably, last year's unwillingness of several member states to sustain the agreed "package deal" as well as the traditionally agreed text of the said resolution, without addressing the most recent proliferation concerns in the Middle East, had undermined this longstanding consensus spirit.

It must be noted, that while Israel has made no secret of its fundamental reservations to the language and the modalities of the "Application" resolution, it has been willing to support it in the interest of consensus. The Israeli support expressed the belief that a Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles could in due course serve as an important complement to the overall efforts for peace, security and arms control process in the region.

The General Conference would be poorly served by including on its agenda the ill-motivated request to add an agenda item on the so-called "Israeli Nuclear Capabilities and Threat", thereby depraving us of the prospect of returning to the traditional consensus on the "Application of IAEA Safeguards in the Middle East" resolution.