

General Conference

GC(56)/13
Date: 18 July 2012

General Distribution
Original: English

Fifty-sixth regular session

Item 20 of the provisional agenda
(GC(56)/1 and Add.1)

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"

1. The Director General has received a letter dated 4 July 2012 from the Resident Representative of Israel, relating to the request from the Arab States that are members of the Agency to include in the agenda of the Conference an item entitled "Israeli nuclear capabilities".
2. As requested therein, the letter is 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

July 4th, 2012

Excellency,

I have the honor to convey Israel's position regarding the request of the Arab States contained in document GC(56)1/Add.1 dated 19 June 2012 for the inclusion of an item entitled "Israeli Nuclear Capabilities" in the Agenda of the 56th General Conference.

As you may recall, the IAEA 54th GC rejected a draft resolution entitled "Israeli Nuclear Capabilities", and during the 55th General Conference no resolution was submitted under the same agenda item.

The 56th GC will face a pressing agenda, including nuclear safety and security, IAEA safeguards, the DPRK, and the last but not least the growing proliferation and nuclear threats in the Middle East, posed by member states that constantly violate their international obligations and commitments in the nuclear domain.

Lamentably, the Group of Arab States had decided to detract the General Conference from its main mission by presenting once again this divisive and highly political agenda item. Some member states, among those submitting the above mentioned request on behalf of the Arab States have themselves a long unflattering history of violating their international obligations and other norms of the international community in every respect.

This is also serving Iran's attempt to divert the attention of the international community in general and the GC in particular from a repeated pattern of violating of it's legally binding obligations. It is important to recall that the most significant threats to the nonproliferation regime and the NPT are those posed by states that pursue nuclear weapons under the cover of their NPT membership. Iran's flagrant activities under the dubious title of "possible

military dimensions" have no other explanation rather than its quest for nuclear weapons. The UNSC and the BoG of the IAEA have repeatedly expressed their opinion on the nature of Iran's nuclear program. In another malicious feature of the Iranian regime, Iran also continues to issue threats against the very existence of the state of Israel.

Israel values the non-proliferation regime, acknowledges its significance and has over the years demonstrated a responsible policy of restraint in the nuclear domain. This has been also manifested in many aspects of Israel's practical non-proliferation policy.

Israel has always maintained that the nuclear issue, as well as all regional security issues, conventional and non-conventional alike, could only be realistically addressed within the regional context.

Genuine regional arms control measures in the Middle East can only be advanced as a result of a comprehensive and durable peace in the region and full compliance by all regional states with their arms control and non-proliferation obligations in a way that would enhance the security of all regional states. This has been also the proven experience in the rest of the world. In the context of the IAEA, it suffices to recall that the Arab States continue to deny Israel's membership in its own regional grouping, MESA (Middle East – South Asia) and therefore to exercise its right, as all other member states, to be elected to the Board of Governness.

The continued regional instability and threats; the current regional upheavals; and the poor track record of non-compliance of several states in the region have a combined critical impact on the ability to build trust and to embark on a process which will lead toward regional security arrangements.

Israel harbors no illusions. Progress towards realizing any broad regional security vision cannot be made without a fundamental change in regional conditions, and not least, without a significant transformation in the attitude of states in the region toward Israel.

In spite of this overall negative regional political environment, and as part of its efforts to enhance confidence building among regional parties, Israel participated in 2011 in the IAEA Forum aimed at learning from the experience of other regions, including in the area of confidence relevant to the establishment of a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone and in an EU seminar on arms control and regional security in the Middle East.

In this regard, Israel believes that any cooperation with this draft resolution, which is clearly outside the scope of the IAEA statute and mandate, not only is unjustified from a legal standpoint, but is also against the clear interest of the Agency and many of its member states and will undermine any genuine attempt to promote confidence and security in the Middle East.

The GC would be best served by rejected, once and for all, the request for inclusion of this ill motivated item in its Agenda. By also doing, the GC will send a clear message of professional integrity and its determination not to be detracted time and again from the real challenges it is faced with in the nuclear realm.

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

Please accept, Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.



Ambassador

Permanent Representative
to the IAEA & CTBTO

Mr. Yukiya Amano
Director General
IAEA