

General Conference

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Item 21 of the provisional agenda
(GC(66)/1 and Add.1)

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

1. The Director General received a letter dated 12 July 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Israel, enclosing a document 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, the letter and its enclosure are herewith circulated for the attention of all IAEA Member States.



12 July 2022

Excellency,

In reference to document GC(66)/1/Add.1, dated 1 July 2022, I have the honor to convey the position of the State of Israel in the enclosed document.

I would be grateful if this document could be circulated to the attention of all IAEA Member States.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



David Nusbaum

Ambassador

**Permanent Representative of Israel
To the IAEA and the CTBTO PrepCom**

H.E. Mr. Rafael Mariano Grossi
Director General
International Atomic Energy Agency



In reference to a request submitted by the Ambassador of Lebanon on behalf of the Arab States that are members of the IAEA, dated 22 June 2022, to include in the agenda of the 66th General Conference (GC) an item entitled "Israeli nuclear capabilities," Israel wishes to state its position as follows:

Similar Arab initiatives and draft resolutions were already introduced and rejected by a growing majority of the Agency's Member States in the 2010, 2013, 2014 and 2015 General Conferences. In the past six years, the issue was placed on the agenda, however a draft resolution was not submitted. Placing this issue on the agenda, year after year, serves no purpose other than to encumber the General Conference and to impede its proceedings with politicization and distraction. Excluding this issue from the agenda of the GC would allow the IAEA and its Member States to direct the necessary attention and resources to the well-known urgent global challenges that the Agency is facing these days.

Therefore, Israel regrets that this issue is once again imposed by the Arab Group on the agenda of the General Conference. This manifests a contentious, biased and fundamentally flawed approach, which politicizes the discussion in the General Conference. This issue is completely outside the scope of the IAEA's Statute and mandate, is unrelated to its agenda, and is injurious to the Agency's credibility as a professional organization.

Israel values the non-proliferation regime, acknowledges its significance, and continues to implement a responsible policy of self-restraint in the nuclear realm. Israel has held a consistently constructive approach regarding the possibility of a direct regional security dialogue with its neighbors, based on consensus, inclusiveness and emanating from within the region.



The practice of singling Israel out will only continue to undermine regional confidence and trust, and divert attention from the real growing regional security challenges. Tabling of a resolution regarding this issue would only mask the refusal of a few Arab states, to engage sincerely and directly with Israel on regional security issues. It also ignores the repeated violations by Middle Eastern members of the Treaty that aspired for nuclear weapons under the guise of NPT membership. Iraq, Libya, Syria and mainly Iran, supporters of this anti-Israeli initiative, were all found to be in flagrant violation of their international obligations and commitments in this regard, and some continue to pursue banned weapons of mass destruction, while denying Agency's access to undeclared nuclear sites, and refusing to provide the Agency with any technically credible answers.

In an evolving Middle East, the "Abraham Accords" has created new possibilities for cooperation and prosperity. Tabling a politically motivated draft resolution entitled "Israeli nuclear capabilities" under the requested agenda item would decidedly obstruct any attempt to establish direct regional engagement, and will only serve Iran and its supporters in the Arab Group. This attempt will neither assist in the building of confidence and trust, paramount to any meaningful direct regional consultations, nor hasten the outcome of such a process. It will only serve to politicize the IAEA and harm its credibility. Israel hopes that the Arab Group refrains from tabling a draft resolution this year, and in the years to come, as well as refrain from placing this issue on the Agency's agenda altogether.