



6 May 2026

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

Thank you 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 Libya on behalf of the Arab Group and Uganda 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 the premise that their spread is inevitable and unpreventable.

We reaffirm the mutually reinforcing relationship between nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation; 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 nuclear weapons, 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 and their delivery system and the expansion of their stockpiles. Both constitutes a clear violation of non-proliferation obligations undertaken by NWS and NNWS.

Mr. 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.

Israel is the main driving force of proliferation in our region.

It is the only state in the Middle East that has not acceded to the NPT and refuses to place its nuclear installations under the comprehensive safeguards regime of the IAEA. Israel has also refused to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, the Chemical Weapons Convention, and has not signed the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention.

Israel is not only defiantly compromising both the key norms of nuclear security and safety and the regional and international aspirations for achieving the universality of the Treaty, its officials believe and act above the constraints of the law; they justify the possession of nuclear weapon and they publicly threaten to use them against our people and peoples of the region.

Israel's illegal nuclear program is the paramount threat to regional and international peace and security. Those who are faithful to the promise and spirit of the NPT, cannot continue to treat Israel's nuclear program as an awkward secret to be brushed to the sides. States cannot continue to provide Israel with immunity and endow it with impunity, shielding the only existing illegal nuclear arsenal in our region from scrutiny.

They have to make it clear: Israel can neither be allowed to dictate the life and death of millions of people nor the fate of our world.

The international community's failure to fulfil its commitments concerning the establishment of a Zone free of nuclear weapons in the Middle East has perpetuated the regional and international insecurity. Likewise, the failure of some States to acknowledge Israel's nuclear programme, let alone hold Israel accountable, and pursue concrete and irreversible measures towards disarmament, as per their obligations, have created an impossible situation in global security that can only end in disaster or demilitarization.

We continue to demand that Israel abandons all nuclear weapons and nuclear programs, and reiterate that the Israel cannot, and will not, have a status of a nuclear weapon state in accordance with the NPT, nor any special status of any kind.

The obligation for ridding the Middle East of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction is a collective international responsibility. All States Parties, in compliance with the treaty and with the outcomes agreed upon within the framework of the Review Conference, in particular NWS, must ensure the universalization of the Treaty and refrain from assisting or encouraging, including politically, legally, militarily, or diplomatically, or provide technical cooperation, to Israel in maintaining its illegal nuclear weapons program.

It also 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 Israel exceptionalism and the Middle East exception must end. States Parties must strengthen nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation efforts by respecting existing, internationally-recognized nuclear-weapon-free zones, and formalizing the status of prospective ones.

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. Israel's denuclearization is the only way to ensure that 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.

