

# 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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## **Measures to promote the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and the realization of the objectives set forth in the 1995 resolution on the Middle East**

### **Report submitted by Algeria**

1. Algeria considers that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, pursuant to article VIII of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, effectively enhances regional and international peace and security and contributes to strengthening the non-proliferation regime and achieving the objectives of nuclear disarmament.
2. Its actions have therefore been aimed at promoting the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones throughout the world. In its own geographical region, Algeria subscribed to the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa issued by the Organization of African Unity. It welcomes the entry into force of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba), and became the third African country to ratify it on 11 February 1998.
3. In the same spirit, Algeria welcomed the establishment of similar zones in Latin America and the Caribbean, the South Pacific, South-East Asia and Central Asia, by the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Central Asia, respectively. These instruments have unquestionably made an effective contribution to reducing the risk of nuclear proliferation and strengthening international peace and security.
4. The experiences of the five existing zones (Latin America and the Caribbean, South Pacific, South-East Asia, Africa and Central Asia) and of two regional verification agreements (the European Atomic Energy Community and the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials) confirm the feasibility of establishing such a zone in the Middle East. Nonetheless, it is worth noting that mutual trust between the countries involved, their common political will and the decisive role of the United Nations, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the five nuclear-weapon States are important for the successful conclusion of such a process.
5. Algeria wishes to reaffirm the importance and validity of the objective of establishing a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction as a continued top priority for the international community. It remains



firmly committed to that objective as an essential element for the stability and security of countries in the region. Achieving that objective would help to establish and promote regional and international peace and security.

6. Algeria stresses that the objective of establishing a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons meets a real security need specific to the region. It therefore has a specific political and legal basis, having been the subject of a resolution on the Middle East adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference. That resolution is an integral part of a global compromise that led the Arab States parties to the Treaty to agree to its indefinite extension in 1995 in exchange for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

7. Algeria also recalls that the Final Document of the eighth Review Conference reaffirmed the importance of that resolution and its validity until its goals and objectives are achieved. Pursuant to that document, a conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction should have been convened in 2012. Unfortunately, that objective has still not been achieved owing to the refusal of Israel. Algeria, together with other Arab partners, has participated in the consultations held by the Facilitator Jaakko Laajava (Finland), and has supported his efforts to bring this process to fruition. Algeria calls once again for implementation of the zone pursuant to the 1995 resolution. The States parties have expressly called on Israel to accede to the Treaty and to place its nuclear facilities under the IAEA safeguards regime.

8. As part of the process making it possible to implement the 1995 resolution on the Middle East in full, the States parties had agreed at the 2010 Review Conference that “the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the co-sponsors of the 1995 Resolution, in consultation with the States of the region, will convene a conference in 2012, to be attended by all States of the Middle East, on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by the States of the region, and with the full support and engagement of the nuclear-weapon States. The 2012 Conference shall take as its terms of reference the 1995 Resolution”.

9. Algeria deeply deplores the fact that this Conference decision has not been implemented, despite its active and constructive engagement and good faith and that of the Arab countries during the various consultations held by the Facilitator in the presence of the other sponsors, owing to the attitude of Israel, which was aimed at diverting the process from its mandate and rendering the 1995 resolution devoid of substance. The Review Conference should urge States parties, including the sponsors of the 1995 resolution, to take all necessary steps to facilitate the realization of the objectives of the 1995 resolution. Lessons should be learned from the 2015 Review Conference, which was prevented from adopting its final document despite the constructive proposal of the Arab Group and the support of a near-majority of States parties to the Treaty.

10. As a State party to the Treaty, Algeria signed a comprehensive safeguards agreement with IAEA in 1996 and fully complies with its obligations and commitments under the Treaty. Algeria considers that the comprehensive implementation of all provisions of the Treaty and its universality, particularly in the Middle East region, are prerequisites for the integrity, authority and credibility of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

11. Algeria has always strongly supported efforts and initiatives to promote the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. In the framework of the Arab Group, it is a sponsor of the resolution on the risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East and supports the resolution on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East, both of which are adopted annually by the

General Assembly. It also supported the resolution entitled “Application of IAEA safeguards in the Middle East”, the latest version of which was adopted by the IAEA General Conference in 2021 (GC(65)/RES/14), and is a sponsor of the resolution entitled “Israeli nuclear capacities” adopted by the fifty-third regular session of the IAEA General Conference in 2009 (GC(53)/RES/17). Algeria remains open to all United Nations initiatives aimed at launching a genuine negotiation process that would result in implementation of the 1995 resolution pursuant to its mandate.

12. Algeria welcomes the progress made in the process launched following the adoption of General Assembly decision 73/546, which led to the convening by the Secretary-General of the first Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction. The Conference was held in New York in November 2019, 45 years after the issue was included on the agenda of the General Assembly.

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