



**CHAIR OF THE
NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT
VIENNA CHAPTER**



**STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY THE DELEGATION OF THE
BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA, ON BEHALF OF THE NON-
ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM), DURING THE GENERAL
CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY
(IAEA) ON “ISRAELI NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES”**

Vienna, 18-22 September 2017

Madam President,

1. I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Vienna Chapter of the Non-Aligned Movement.
2. NAM would like to reiterate its principled position on the matter:
 - a. NAM strongly believes that stability cannot be achieved in a region where massive imbalances in military capabilities are maintained particularly through the possession of nuclear weapons, which allow one party to threaten its neighbors, and the region.
 - b. NAM welcomes that its Member States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) conclude comprehensive safeguards agreements with the Agency in fulfillment of their obligation under paragraph 1 of Article III of the Treaty, as Non-Nuclear- Weapons States (NNWS). NAM notes that all States of the Middle East region except for Israel are parties to the NPT and have undertaken to accept comprehensive Agency safeguards.
 - c. NAM considers the establishment of a nuclear-weapons-free-zone (NWFZ) in the Middle East as a positive step towards attaining the objective of global nuclear disarmament and reiterates its support for the establishment of such a zone in accordance with relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions.
3. NAM notes with concern that a selective approach to the issue of nuclear capabilities in the Middle East undermines the viability of the IAEA Safeguards regime. Such an approach has also resulted in the continued and dangerous presence of unsafeguarded Israeli nuclear facilities and activities, notwithstanding the repeated calls on Israel to subject these facilities and activities to IAEA comprehensive safeguards. In this regard, NAM expresses great concern about the dire consequences of the following on international security:



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- a. The acquisition of a nuclear capability by Israel which poses a serious and continuing threat to the security of its neighboring and other States.
 - b. The continuing development whereby Israeli scientists are provided access to the nuclear facilities of one Nuclear-Weapon-State (NWS).
4. NAM emphasizes that all Member States should cooperate to reverse this unacceptable situation. NAM encourages the active participation of all Member States in achieving the universality of comprehensive IAEA safeguards in the Middle East region. Implementing resolution GC (53)/RES/17 entitled "Israeli nuclear capabilities" is a first step towards that end.
 5. NAM regrets Israel's continued insistence that Agency safeguards cannot be addressed in isolation from the regional peace process. NAM emphasizes that there is no automatic sequence which links the application of comprehensive safeguards to all nuclear activities in the Middle East, to the prior conclusion of a peace settlement, and that the former would contribute to the latter.
 6. NAM reiterates its call for the total and complete prohibition of the transfer of all nuclear-related equipment, information, material and facilities, resources or devices and the extension of assistance in the nuclear related scientific or technological fields to Israel.
 7. In this regard, NAM further notes that the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Israel, in his letter to the Director General as attached to his previous report as contained in document GC(54)/14, had stated that "Israel values the non-proliferation regime, acknowledges its importance and has over the years demonstrated a responsible policy of restraint in the nuclear domain". Regrettably, the official records of this Agency are testimony to the contrary. In this context, NAM recalls the various resolutions issued by the IAEA General Conference prior to 1994 regarding the Apartheid South Africa's Nuclear Capabilities. In those resolutions, the General Conference recalled various United Nations General Assembly resolutions dealing with "Relations between Israel and Apartheid South Africa's" and "Military and nuclear collaboration with Apartheid South Africa", which inter-alia strongly condemned the extensive collaboration between Israel and the then racist regime of Apartheid South Africa, especially in the military and nuclear fields, in defiance of resolutions by the General Assembly and the Security Council.

I thank you, Madam President.