

General Conference

GC(49)/21

Date: 9 September 2005

General Distribution

Original: English

49th regular session

Item 22 of the provisional agenda
(GC/49)/1

Israeli Nuclear Capabilities and Threat

- On 7 September 2005, the Director General received a letter dated 5 September 2005 from the Resident Representative of Israel to the Agency, relating to item 22 of the provisional agenda of the Conference, “Israeli nuclear capabilities and threat”.
- As requested by the Resident Representative of Israel, that letter and its attachment are herewith circulated.

**Text of letter dated 5 September 2005 from
the Resident Representative of Israel**

I wish to refer to the letter of the Secretariat dated August 24, 2005 (GC(49)/10).

I have the honor to forward you the position of Israel on the request to include an item entitled "Israeli nuclear capabilities and threat" in the agenda of the 49th General Conference. I would like to request you to circulate this letter and the attachment to all the IAEA Member States.

(signed) Israel Michaeli
Ambassador
to the IAEA and the CTBTO

Israel's Position on the Request to Include an Item Entitled "Israel's Nuclear Capabilities and Threat" on the Agenda of the 49th General Conference

The suggestion that this item be included in the agenda for the upcoming General Conference is neither substantially warranted nor practically desirable. It neither addresses the most pressing proliferation concerns in the Middle East, nor does it create a favourable climate for discussing issues in which the Agency's GC deliberations could play a constructive role.

Furthermore, there is another resolution on the "Application of the IAEA safeguards in the Middle East" that has been adopted by consensus by all the Member States for the last 13 years. Although Israel has made no secret its fundamental reservations to the language and the modalities of this resolution, it has joined the consensus on this resolution out of a belief that a NWFZ could eventually serve as an important complement to the overall efforts for peace, security and arms control in the region.

The Agency's GC would thus be well advised to sustain the consensus on the "Application of the IAEA safeguards in the Middle East" resolution, and remove this frivolous request on the so-called "Israeli Nuclear Capabilities and Threat" from its agenda.