

Information Circular

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Communication dated 18 July 2011 received from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq to the Agency regarding a statement on the occasion of the forty-first anniversary of signing of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons by the Government of Iraq

The Secretariat has received a communication dated 18 July 2011 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq to the Agency enclosing a statement by the Republic of Iraq on the occasion of the forty-first anniversary of the signing of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

As requested by the Permanent Mission, the statement is circulated herewith for information.

Statement by the Republic of Iraq on the occasion of the forty-first anniversary of the signing of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

On 1 July 2011 the Republic of Iraq marked the 41st anniversary of its accession to the NPT. On this occasion Iraq reaffirms its commitment to the fundamentals, principles and objectives of this Treaty, which aims to support and maintain international peace and security while promoting ways to benefit from nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Iraq seeks to benefit from this energy for the development and advancement of Iraqi society, far from any misuses or use for purposes other than those stated and consistent with the objectives and guidelines of the International Atomic Energy Agency and other international organizations and treaties endorsed by the entire international community.

The NPT is the cornerstone for promoting the principles of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons throughout the world and maintaining international peace and security, on the one hand, and encouraging and contributing to the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, particularly in the Middle East, on the other hand. In this context, we need to recall Security Council resolution 487 (1981), which called upon Israel urgently to place all its nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards, and also paragraph 14 of Security Council resolution 687 (1991) which envisaged the establishment in the Middle East of a zone free from weapons of mass destruction and nuclear weapons. We are still awaiting the implementation of these two resolutions and hope this will happen in the very near future.

Iraq also reiterates its endorsement of the requirement to implement the objectives and recommendations of the 1995 and 2010 NPT Review Conferences, as well as the need for all States parties to the NPT to take the necessary actions and steps in order to implement the resolutions of the recent NPT Review Conference held in 2010.

The recent NPT Review Conference reconfirmed the need for the five nuclear States (United States, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, France, China) to fulfil their commitment towards Resolution 55 of 1995 which relates to freeing the Middle East zone from nuclear weapons.

On this occasion we emphasize once again the need to support the roles of the Secretariat of the United Nations, the IAEA and all other relevant international organizations in order to support and encourage every effort towards freeing the Middle East from all weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, and to promote the principle of universality of the NPT and put pressure on those that have not yet joined the NPT to do so, especially Israel, which is the only party in the Middle East that is still refusing to accede to the NPT and does not place its nuclear facilities under international safeguards, resulting in a lack of evidence for the international community that those facilities are not being used for other than civil and peaceful purposes.

Iraq hopes that the international community will take those important actions and steps as soon as possible in order to maintain international peace and security and enable all peoples to live in peace, security and prosperity.