

Information Circular

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Communication from the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Agency

1. On 15 December 2023, the Secretariat received an email communication with a Note Verbale from the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Agency, transmitting a joint letter on behalf of the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the League of Arab States (LAS).
2. As requested in the email communication, the Note Verbale and the letter are herewith circulated for the information of all Member States.



No: 408/45- 1161

Subject: Joint Letter to H.E. the Director General of the IAEA

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Vienna presents its compliments to International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

With reference to the Joint Emergency Summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the League of Arab States (LAS) regarding the situation in Gaza, which took place on 11 November 2023, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, the Permanent Mission has the honor to convey the attached joint letter to H.E. the Director General Dr. Rafael Mariano Grossi on behalf of the member states of the OIC and LAS.

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Vienna avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) the assurances of its highest considerations.

Vienna, 15 December 2023



Excellency,

Following the Joint Emergency Summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the League of Arab States (LAS) regarding the situation in Gaza, which took place on 11 November 2023, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

In accordance with the foregoing, we are honored to convey to you the following message on behalf of the Member States of the OIC and the LAS:

As you are aware, the people of Gaza are experiencing a deeply horrifying and tragic humanitarian crisis due to the senseless Israeli aggression, which is currently taking place, that we stress is in clear violation of international law and international humanitarian law.

In light of this, on the 11th of November 2023, leaders of Arab and Muslim States met in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia for an urgent Summit, in which they condemned the Israeli aggression on Gaza, and specifically a statement made by the Israeli Heritage Minister, who considered that one of the possibilities to solve the ongoing situation is by “dropping an atomic bomb on the Gaza Strip.”

Accordingly, we the Member States of the OIC and LAS stress our categorical condemnation of the recent above-mentioned statement made by the Israeli Minister, which is unacceptable, as it constitutes a threat and an incitement to commit the heinous crime of using a nuclear weapon against an innocent civilian population.

Furthermore, this statement is an impediment to the ultimate goal for a world without nuclear weapons given that it reflects a complete disregard by Israel for the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime, that has served as a cornerstone for international peace and security for the past decades, which the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) serves as one of its key custodians.

We hope that you agree with us that the decades long Israeli policy of completely ignoring international law has reached its pinnacle, including in relation to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. This Israeli policy has culminated in the tragedy we see unfolding before our eyes in Gaza, thereby leading to an untenable situation in which Israel acts with impunity, to the degree that a government official explicitly suggested that dropping an atomic weapon on the Gaza strip, in which 2.2 million people live, was a viable option.

The gravity of the statement made by the Israeli Minister should provide an impetus to the international community, and specifically to the IAEA to take the necessary steps to rectify this situation with a view to end Israel's policy of complete disregard of international law, and specifically the international non-proliferation regime, which should no longer be tolerated.

We therefore request Your Excellency, in your capacity as the Director General of the IAEA, to urgently call on Israel to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as a non-nuclear weapon State party, and to place all its nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards as stipulated in United Nation's Security Council Resolution

487, and the resolution on Israeli Nuclear Capabilities (2009), and resolutions regarding the Application of IAEA Safeguards in the Middle East. We call on your Excellency to take all necessary measures towards this end.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

H.E Dr. Rafael Mariano Grossi

Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency,