

MEMMO

June 2, 2010

Flawed NPT Call Ignores Iranian Threat, Singles Out Israel

The faulty final document coming out of the United Nations' recently completed month-long Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) review conference failed to address the key nuclear proliferation threat facing the Middle East and the world: Iran. The document does not include any mention of Iranian or Syrian violations of their treaty obligations, but instead singles out Israel and calls on the United Nations to convene a conference in 2012 on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction. Without the necessary precondition of true regional peace, the United States should prevent such a gathering, which will predictably turn into yet another international forum to bash Israel.

The final conference document did not mention the nuclear proliferation threats posed by Iran and Syria but instead singles out Israel.

- Neither Iran nor Syria, both with suspected covert nuclear weapons programs, was mentioned in the conference's final document purportedly focused on advancing the non-proliferation agenda.
- Iran's aggressive effort to develop a nuclear weapon has the potential to radically alter the geostrategic landscape of the Middle East—fuelling an atomic arms race, serving as an umbrella for Tehran to accelerate its regional ambitions and potentially resulting in the transfer of this capability to the hands of terrorists.
- The failure to mention Iran's gross violations of the NPT, which have been well documented by the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the singling out Israel can only undermine the credibility and impartiality of the NPT regime's approach to the Middle East.
- The final document then calls for a conference to be held in 2012 on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction. The meeting is to be held under international auspices, including that of the United Nations.
- While Israel has supported such a zone once it has reached a durable comprehensive peace with all its neighbors, calling for such a conference now to be held under such auspices hardly seems viable. Iran continues to threaten to destroy Israel, most Middle Eastern countries are still in an official state of war with the Jewish state and the Palestinians remain deeply divided over making peace with Israel.



The NPT review conference failed to mention Iran's ongoing illicit nuclear activities.

- A conference held under such conditions would only serve as another international forum to ostracize Israel. The Jewish state should not be pressured into participating in such a conference until the environment in the region is conducive to achieving its stated objectives.

The United States must prevent any conference that will be used to further isolate Israel and focus on tackling the real proliferation threat in the region: Iran.

- The United States commendably “deplored” the singling out of Israel and expressed serious reservations about the 2012 conference, but nevertheless chose not to break the consensus in approving the final document. As a result, little was done to highlight the threat posed by Iran.
- With the conference now over, the United States must quickly secure the adoption by the U.N. Security Council of a resolution imposing new sanctions on Iran, seek steeper sanctions from like-minded allies including the European Union, and impose much tougher unilateral sanctions on Iran to change Iranian behavior before it is too late.
- The U.S. must also now live up to its objective to ensure that any international conference on the creation of a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction be held only if appropriate preconditions exist.
- U.S. National Security Adviser General James Jones emphasized Washington’s “serious reservations” about the 2012 conference and indicated that peace in the Middle East and universal adherence by all countries in the region to their arms control and nonproliferation obligations “are essential precursors” to such a gathering.