State of Israel

Explanation of Vote on
The Risk of Nuclear Proliferation in the Middle East

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Madam Chair,

In light of current realities in the Middle East we believe it is rather obvious that draft resolution L.2 entitled “The Risk of Nuclear Proliferation in the Middle East” is blatantly one-sided, missing in facts, contentious and divisive. As such, it undermines rather than enhances confidence between the states of the region.

There is no doubt that a risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East indeed exists. As events of the last years prove, it is in fact a major and imminent one. Our region faces growing threats stemming from the non-compliance by some states with their international obligations and norms, in particular the ongoing activities of Iran and its total disregard to both the IAEA BOG and the relevant UNSC resolutions.

Madam Chair,

Under such a title one could have expected to find, at a minimum, calls for compliance by states in the region with their relevant international obligations or for mutual recognition and peaceful relations among countries of the region.

Lamentably, the resolution does not reflect the realities of our troubled region. Moreover, it chooses to completely ignore relevant internationally acknowledged evidence and formal IAEA and UNSC resolutions. This resolution also overlooks the profound hostility of states in the region towards Israel, the refusal for reconciliation and mutual recognition, and explicit threats on our existence.

Furthermore, this resolution focuses entirely, and by name, on Israel and singles us out in a manner that no other UN Member State is being singled out in the First Committee. This is whereas Israel has never threatened its neighbors, nor abrogated its obligations under any disarmament treaty, and has acted in utmost responsibility in the nuclear domain.

Madam Chair,

Adopting such a resolution will not serve the greater objective of curbing proliferation in the Middle East but can rather compromise it. Resolutions regarding the proliferation risks in the Middle East should focus on objective ways to address them as they emerge.
The First Committee should not, once again, become a venue for political discrimination. We would like to call upon the distinguished delegates to vote against this resolution and distance themselves from attempts to deteriorate the credibility of this UN body.

Thank you Madam Chair.