Madam Chair,

I cannot but start with the latest and regrettable developments that took place in the Korean peninsula:

Israel joins others in the international community in condemning North Korea’s nuclear test. This Test is to our opinion an irresponsible and provocative act that poses serious threat not only to the regional stability of north-east Asia but also to global and international security.

Israel reiterates its call to continue the moratorium on nuclear tests and expects North Korea to refrain from any action that could worsen the situation. Israel renews its calls on the international community to firmly see to the implementation to UNSC resolutions adopted to deal with the threat of WMD proliferation.

Madam Chair,

Israel has been long advocating global and complete disarmament in the spirit of its prophets that have articulated the vision: "They shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nations shall not lift up a sword against nation, not shall they learn war and more. But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree, and none shall make them afraid" (Micah 4, 3-4).

To this day, Israel remains committed to a vision of the Middle East developing into a zone free of Chemical, Biological and Nuclear weapons as well as ballistic missiles. Yet we are also realistic enough to know that in the current realities of the Middle East, this noble vision is not going to materialize any time soon.
As had been the case in virtually every other region, such a vision cannot be pursued out of context. A NWFZ can only emerge as an outgrowth of a fundamental transformation of the regional political-strategic climate through a gradual process of building mutual trust and reconciliation, followed by more modest arms control measures.

Madam Chair,

Given the global state of disarmament, we need in the interim to address other important developments. In our view it is rather obvious that the rising global energy demand, coupled with an acute need for ever growing use of non-polluting energy sources, requires us to make nuclear power abundantly available. This can only be done if nuclear power could be made to be at once safe, reliable, and proliferation resistant.

The desire to allow for a wider use of nuclear power needs to be balanced with the necessity to limit the spread of sensitive nuclear technology. This is especially urgent in light of the growing threats and challenges to the non-proliferation regime and the poor track record of compliance by some states with nuclear non-proliferation obligations and norms in the past decade.

Given the inherently dual nature of nuclear fuel cycle technology, we need to consider the attributes of states possessing such technology, and their willingness to shoulder the heavy burden of responsibility as well as accountability to internationally promulgated norms in the non-proliferation and nuclear security domain. Above all, states who threaten others, support terrorism or deny the right of other states to exist cannot be trusted with this sensitive technology.

Conversely, we in Israel recognize the special responsibility we shoulder. We have been engaged in a concerted effort to bring ourselves formally closer, wherever possible, to international norms on nuclear safety, security and non-proliferation. We have also stepped up our efforts to help shape and promote new norms in these domains, hoping that these will, in turn, also favorably impact on our region.
Madam Chair,

Permit me to highlight just a few of our more recent undertakings in these areas:

An intense inter-agency effort over several years has brought Israel into full adherence to the Nuclear Suppliers Groups (NSG) Guidelines as recognized by its Assembly during the last plenary meeting in Brazilia.

Israel has complemented its export control effort with support and active participation in the Proliferation Security Initiative;

Our efforts in the domain of nuclear security have further expanded to endorse and actively support the Global Threat Reduction Initiative;

In this vain Israel, like others, has also submitted a report on its implementation of Security Council Resolution 1540. Furthermore, we have welcomed UNSC 1673 resolution to extend the mandate of the 1540 Committee in promoting the full implementation of the resolution;

Israel has endorsed and launched the ratification process of the upgraded CPPNM as well as the Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. In addition, we have supported all along and are implementing the IAEA Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of radioactive sources as well as the Agency's Code of Conduct on the Safety of Research Reactors;

We are stepping up the security of our international border crossings against illicit trafficking of nuclear and radiological materials in cooperation with the US Department of Energy;
Our broader effort includes, in the context of the Agency's Safety Standards Committee of the IAEA, developing further the national and global standards for stringent nuclear security measures. One of the areas recognized as warranting a high priority efforts has been the transport, storage and waste management of radioactive sources;

Even more broadly, Israel not only remains formally committed to the CTBT, but also actively supports and participates in the work of the CTBTO. We look forward to finalizing the organization's preparations and having it fully ready for Entry into Force. We also sincerely hope that enough support can be marshaled to draw on some non-proliferation and other benefits its existence offers, even in the current transient state, and we support the commitment by all states parties to the CTBT, pending its Entry Into Force, not to conduct nuclear test explosions, in line with the Treaty's basic obligations;

Finally, notwithstanding our limited size and resources, our vested interests in the success of the nonproliferation regime has propelled us to:

- Search for ways to support the development by others of safe, reliable, and proliferation resistant nuclear power technology;
- Work to enhance the efficiency of safeguards measures and technology;
- Promote new international norms governing dissemination of new fuel-cycle facilities. It is our strong belief that arrangements such as nuclear fuel lease/take-back, credible supply assurances, and international spent fuel storage options, should be studied and developed with the highest priority.

Thank you Madam Chair.