Mr. Chairperson,

Israel joined the consensus on the resolution L.60 entitled "African Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty" in light of its support of the principle that NWFZs should emanate exclusively from a region, be agreed upon through consensus and reflect arrangements freely arrived at by all states concerned. This position is based not just on a pragmatic and realistic approach, but also reflects principles stipulated in the 1999 Disarmament Commission Guidelines on the Establishment of Nuclear Weapon Free Zones on the Basis of Arrangements Freely Arrived at Among the States of the Region.

We note with interest that the resolution calls upon African States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the treaty as soon as possible. This call is consonant with the 1996 Cairo Declaration adopted on the occasion of the signing of the Treaty of Pelindaba which invites the African States to ratify the Treaty as soon as possible.

We also note with interest that of those states that have not yet ratified the Pelindaba Treaty some have been very vocal in calling other states to join and establish a WMDFZ in the Middle East and continue to initiate one-sided resolutions which purport to single out states. It would seem logical that those states that have negotiated and adopted the Pelindaba Treaty would begin by implementing their own current, freely arrived at, obligations rather than devoting all of their efforts towards unhelpful resolutions which, amongst others, do not reflect developments on the ground.