Steps to promote the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and the realization of the goals and objectives of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East

Report submitted by Canada

1. At the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, Canada supported a resolution calling for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. In addition, Canada co-sponsored the resolution entitled “Renewed determination towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons” and voted in favour of the resolution entitled “Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world”. Canada has called for the universal and full adherence to and compliance with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) by States Parties in the region. At the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Canada has actively supported the adoption of a resolution on the application of safeguards in the Middle East by the IAEA General Conferences in 2005 and 2006. Canada has also urged the three States in the region that have not signed or ratified comprehensive safeguards agreements with IAEA to do so as soon as possible. Canada has appealed to all States in the region to contribute further to regional stability and security by concluding Additional Protocols to their respective safeguards agreements, thereby demonstrating greater openness and transparency. With regard to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), Canada supported the CTBT resolution at the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, and has encouraged coordinated ratification of the Treaty by the three Annex II signatories in the region (Egypt, Iran and Israel). At the 2005 Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the CTBT and the 2006 “Friends of the CTBT” ministerial event, Canada championed a proposal calling on these three signatories to coordinate their ratification of the Treaty as a confidence-building measure.

2. Canada shares the serious international concerns about the scope and nature of Iran’s past and ongoing nuclear programme. Although Canada recognizes that Iran has a right to the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, we also note that Iran has lost the confidence of the IAEA Board of Governors and the United Nations

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1 Bahrain, Qatar and Saudi Arabia (signed on 16 June 2005 but not in force).
Security Council through its two-decade history of concealing nuclear activities. In the light of this history, as well as Iran’s failure to provide any plausible justification for its efforts to acquire the full nuclear fuel cycle, Canada fully supports Security Council resolutions 1696 (2006), 1737 (2006) and 1747 (2007). These resolutions clearly state the international community’s desire for a negotiated diplomatic solution which respects Iran’s right to peaceful uses of nuclear energy while ensuring the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran’s nuclear programme. In a statement delivered on 24 March 2007, Canada’s Foreign Minister urged Iran to comply with the international obligations set out by the Security Council, including the full and verified suspension of all enrichment, reprocessing and heavy water-related activities. He reminded Iran that doing so is key to the Security Council suspending measures against Iran and opening the way for negotiations on a mutually acceptable political settlement. He also noted that it is vital that Iran extend its full cooperation to the International Atomic Energy Agency. It is only through such cooperation that Iran can restore international confidence in the peaceful nature of its nuclear programme. As part of this process, Iran must recommit itself to the resolution of all outstanding questions and concerns and to full compliance with its obligations to the non-proliferation regime. Canada has also called for Iran to cooperate fully and transparently with IAEA in the implementation of NPT safeguards and to provide the additional transparency and access measures that have been requested of it, noting that Iran should also resume its provisional application of the Additional Protocol until such time as the Additional Protocol is ratified by Iran and enters into force.

3. Canada has called on all remaining States not party to the NPT to join as nuclear non-weapon States. As a confidence-building measure in advance of this ultimate goal, Canada has also called on these same States to separate their civilian and military fuel cycles and to place all civilian nuclear activities under IAEA safeguards. These statements are in conformity with both the policies and actions of the Canadian Government, which include Canada’s voting record on the resolutions referenced above in paragraph one at the sixty-first session of the General Assembly. It also conforms with Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, which calls on all States to promote the universal adoption and full implementation of multilateral treaties whose aim is to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons.