**Delegation:** The United States of America

**Forum**: GA 1 Disarmament & International Security

**Issue:** Establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East

According to the General Assembly resolution 3472 b (1975), a nuclear-weapons-free zone (NWFZ) is defined as “a regional area or zone that has a total absence of nuclear weapons and an international system of verification and control to ensure that the countries comply with the obligations of signing the treaty. Nuclear weapons have been manufactured for many years and there have been significant accidents with the use of nuclear weapons in the past. The 6 member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the UAE), the 5 Arab League states outside of Africa (Yemen, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq) and Iran are not nuclear weapons states and not part of a NWFZ either. Some of these Middle Eastern countries possess and manufacture nuclear weapons even if they have not used them in war yet. Iran previously had an organized programme to look into nuclear weapons and their advancement but there has been no indication of weaponization programmes since 2009. Israel has not publicly undertaken nuclear tests, does not deny or affirm having nuclear weapons but states that it will not be the first country to introduce nuclear weapons in the Middle East. Similarly, Iraq and Syria have also had past nuclear weapons programmes but no significant indication has been found recently.

Nuclear weaponry is extremely dangerous because just one weapon can destroy an entire city and when these countries manufacture the weapons, they are ready for immediate use.The current conflict zone in the Middle East is Syria and its neighboring countries due to the Syrian Civil War and the involvement of the Islamic State. Having national stockpiles of nuclear weapons can be dangerous because they can be found by terrorist organisations and because the existing nuclear weapons can be launched accidently or used in the war. The UN Office for Disarmament Affairs deems nuclear disarmament necessary and the best way to protect people from these dangers. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), first open for signature in 1968 and extended indefinitely in 1995 has been signed by a total of 190 parties, including the nuclear-weapon states. More parties have ratified the Treaty than any other disarmament treaty, a testament to the Treaty’s significance. Most countries of the Middle East have ratified the Treaty, except for Israel which is one of the countries that is in possession of nuclear weapons.

At the 2010 Review Conference of the parties to the NPT, the States parties agreed to follow-on actions which included the implementation of 1995 Resolution on the Middle East. The 1995 Resolution was created during the Review Conference on the NPT and aimed to establish a NWFZ in the Middle East. According to reports prepared for the 2005 Review Conference, the United States of America focused on three objectives: support for the Middle East peace process, ensuring that all countries comply with the NPT and other efforts to strengthen non-proliferation treaties and regimes. A comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East remains a key United States foreign policy goal and the delegation of United States of America will continue to press its concerns about the implementation of this 1995 Resolution. During the 2015 Review Conference on the NPT, reports submitted by the United States highlight some of the actions in the action plan of the 2010 conference.

The United States of America has clearly defined its activities on nuclear weaponry and also defined goals and actions from the action plan. Some of these include changes to nuclear policy, nuclear surety, nuclear weapons reductions and national stockpile transparency. The delegation of the United States will work towards reporting on national measures to non-proliferation and improving nuclear security in the U.S. The United States of America has also continuously worked for nuclear-weapon-free-zones, supporting and following protocols for the established NWFZs and also supports engagement of regional states on a conference on a NWFZ in the Middle East.

**References**

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