

Permanent Mission Of The Kingdom
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الوفد الدائم لملكة العربية السعودية
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Statement of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

FIRST COMMITTEE – 65th SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Delivered by

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Permanent Representative of the

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To the United Nations

First of all, I would like to congratulate your Excellency on being elected Chairman of the First Committee.

Now that the 65th Session of the General Assembly has opened and the work of the First Committee begins, the world continues to be plagued by threats of nuclear proliferation, weapons of mass destruction and illicit trade in small arms. Of all issues before the First Committee, these threats are of priority.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia takes a firm foreign policy stance in support of international efforts to reduce the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the world.

As a result, the Kingdom has acceded to most treaties and international agreements calling for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction.

First and foremost among these is the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons that was signed on the 1st of July 1969 in London, Washington and Moscow and went into effect March 5th, 1970. Most Arab countries signed the Treaty at that time.

Israel, on the other hand, has not signed or acceded to this Treaty yet arguing that its agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency's safeguards system outlined in its Information Circular (66/Rev.2) is good enough.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia acceded to the NPT in 1988 and has since abided by all its provisions and participated in various treaty review conferences like the Preparatory Committee prior to the General Conference in April 1995 held in New York where my Country participated in a very high delegation headed by our Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Unfortunately, different agendas dominated the Conference and international pressure was insufficient to move Israel to accede to the NPT.

Globally, The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia desires a nuclear weapons free world. Locally, my Country is working to achieve a nuclear weapon free Middle East. However, this can only be achieved when Israel signs the NPT. To this end, the May Review Conference agreed to host an international conference by 2012 in Egypt addressing this issue.

Along with nuclear weapons, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia actively seeks to ban the use of Chemical Weapons and signed the **Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons** on January

20,1993. The Kingdom participated in all sixteen (16) Preparatory Committee meetings held in The Hague and the convention was ratified on August 9, 1996.

As a result, the Kingdom's Council of Ministers established a National Authority on the Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, headed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that is responsible for full implementation of this convention.

Subsequently, several sub-committees to steward inspection and verification have been established and in May of this year, the Saudi Council of Ministers adopted Resolution No. 134 dated 12/4/2010 to expand the National Authority on the Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention to include the **Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (BWC)**.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia supports current initiatives to limit the use of ballistic missiles and has participated in meetings of the Code of Conduct against the Proliferation of Ballistic Missiles since its inception in Paris on February 7th and 8th of 2002. At that meeting, the Kingdom encouraged Middle Eastern countries possessing ballistic missile capabilities to support the effort.

As world peace is predicated on the eradication of Weapons of Mass Destruction, so to Regional Peace is predicated on the control and limitation of conventional weapons and the elimination of illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

To this end, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia seeks the elimination and destruction of anti-personnel mines. The Kingdom has contributed over 4.5 million U.S. dollars to this cause and signed **The 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines** commonly referred to as the Ottawa Convention or the Mine Ban Treaty.

The Kingdom also actively participates in the United Nations Program to Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons and a National Working Group currently meets weekly at the headquarters of the Saudi Ministry of Interior to review and study draft articles of the United Convention on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in pursuit of its adoption.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is dedicated to achieving peace and stability in the world and welcomes the continuing efforts of the United Nations in this regard. In response to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to Resolution 1540 on the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the Kingdom has submitted its official report (S/AC.44/2004/(02)/65) in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 4 of this resolution.

During the Nuclear Security Summit held in Washington April 2010, the Kingdom announced its intention to work with the UN Security Council to convene a workshop in Riyadh next December and bring together international and national experts on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 in order to strengthen the Kingdom's ability to limit proliferation of WMD while promoting recognition of these efforts at the national level.

In conclusion, my Government would like to affirm that the disposal of nuclear weapons is the best guarantee against their use or the threat of their use by any terrorist organization. In light of the continuing instability in the Middle East and increasing risk emanating from the region, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia shares in the concerns of most non-nuclear countries and seeks a nuclear weapon free Middle East.

This can only be achieved through binding international instruments that ensure the safety and stability of non-nuclear-weapon states.