

# ISRAEL

**Statement by**  
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**The Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations**

**General Debate**  
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**Disarmament Commission**

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Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

As this is the first time my delegation is taking the floor, I would like to congratulate you on assuming the chairmanship, and assure you of my delegations' support in the coming discussions. I would like also to congratulate the working group chairs from Jamaica and Belgium and wish them success.

Madam Chairperson,

The importance of UNDC, in the context of the disarmament machinery, was outlined in the First Special Session on Disarmament in 1978, where it was stipulated that the function of UNDC shall be to, *inter alia*, consider and make recommendations on various problems in the field of disarmament and consider elements of a comprehensive program for disarmament. To fulfill its mandate, it is clear that UNDC must look at issues in a comprehensive manner and in context. UNDC's recommendations should be based entirely on the reality on the ground and strike the necessary balance between what is hoped for and what is plausible, given prevailing regional and global circumstances.

In this respect, Israel is concerned by arms control and disarmament initiatives that seek to circumvent the complexities of the multilateral arena, and/or do not consider the full range of opinions and security interests or the relevant circumstances and their context. Such initiatives will not be able to achieve the same standing and authority nor address issues effectively. This is why Israel will continue to oppose to the BAN treaty.

It is important to reflect on what has been done thus far, focus on implementation consider the changing circumstances, better understand the prevailing realities and verify compliance, before we embark on exploring new venues for arms control and disarmament.

Madam Chairperson,

Israel supports a vision of a Middle East free from wars, conflicts, WMD and delivery means. This is a vision to which all of the region's inhabitants should aspire, based on the hope for peace, mutual recognition, reconciliation and cessation of all acts of terrorism, aggression and hostility. At the same time, Israel believes that arms control and disarmament processes are inseparable from the context in which they exist. These processes should be built on

confidence-building measures that are durable and sustainable, and should be formulated in a way that addresses the relevant circumstances, challenges and threats facing the region.

In recent years, the Middle East has been further destabilized and radicalized. Arms control treaties have been breached entirely by regional members, norms have been disregarded, and the erosion of state sovereignty has never been so apparent. The Middle East has become as a laboratory for terrorist activity.

Unfortunately, in today's Middle East, chemical weapons are still in use. The norm against the use of such weapons has been repeatedly violated by a state party to the convention. This situation creates incentives for terrorist groups to acquire these capabilities and use them.

It is nonnegotiable that Syria must fulfill its international obligations in their entirety, in particular the prohibition against the use and production of chemical weapons. Syria must submit full and accurate disclosure of its chemical arsenal and capabilities.

Madam Chairperson,

Iran remains the most significant threat to the security of the Middle East and beyond. Its ballistic missile program indicates that the threat posed by Iran has not diminished. To the contrary, the advancement of this program signals Iran's negative attitude toward the implementation of its international obligations.

Iran's past clandestine activities in the nuclear domain and continued acts of concealment and duplicity, taken together with its policy of aggression and hostility, raise fundamental questions as to whether regional players fully understand the duty to comply with international legal obligations.

Against this troubling backdrop, it is clear that any arms control regional process cannot be detached from the true situation we face. Israel has emphasized repeatedly that a more secure and peaceful Middle East requires all regional states to engage in a process of direct and sustained dialogue to address the broad range of regional security challenges and threats facing regional players individually and collectively.

Such dialogue, based on the widely accepted principle of consensus, can only emanate from within the region itself, and can only address, in an inclusive manner, the threat perceptions of all regional parties to enhance and improve their security. Direct engagement, combined with trust and confidence-building, has always been an essential basis for the creation of a new security paradigm in a region fraught with wars, conflicts, disintegration of national territories and human suffering.

The 1999 Report of this forum, UNDC's fifty-fourth session, details many important elements contributing to the necessary foundation for the establishment of nuclear weapon-free zones. The report clarifies that such complex and sensitive security architecture should be the product of the specific circumstances of the region concerned, must emanate exclusively from the states within the region concerned, and should be pursued by all states in the region. This nuclear weapon-free zone must also be based on arrangements at which the states of the region concerned arrived freely and independently.

Madam Chairperson,

Israel welcomes the successful deliberations on conventional weapons that took place here last year. It is worthwhile to build and deliberate on this set of recommendations with regard to conventional arms, but we must ensure their relevance to the real situation outside of these halls. In the Middle East, this means addressing the major proliferators and violators of international obligations, namely Iran and Syria.

Finally, Madam Chairperson, on the topic of TCBMs in Outer Space, we hope for good, constructive, realistic and relevant consultations.

I thank you.