

**Statement by**

**H.E. Ambassador AliAsgharSoltanieh**

**Permanent Representative  
of the Islamic Republic of Iran**

**before the IAEA Board of Governors**

**Agenda Item 8  
Any Other Matter**

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**Mr. Chairman,**

I associate myself with the statement made on behalf of the brotherly Arab countries, delivered by distinguished Ambassador of Tunisia on the threat of Israeli nuclear capabilities, which is a serious threat to the peace and security of the Middle East and the world at large.

The statement of the U.S. Ambassador today gives a dangerous message that not being a party to the NPT, thus not reporting to the IAEA, makes a safe haven. Such Statement endangers the universality of the NPT and comprehensive safeguards agreement.

The unilateral decision of the United States to postpone the Conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of Nuclear Weapons and all other Weapons of Mass Destruction, planned to be held in 2012, in order to protect Israel from international condemnation, is disregard of the unanimous decision made by the NPT 2010 Review Conference. Action and words of the United States are not consistent. This also proves that there is no genuine political will on a Middle East zone free from nuclear weapons. My country as the initiator of the first proposal in 1974 to establish such a zone in the ME, has since then called repeatedly on the realization of this goal. Israel is the only obstacle in realization of such goal. The Western allies of the Zionist regime have to be blamed for the status quo.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.