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**Disarmament and International Security Committee (First Committee), 25th meeting**

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My delegation voted in support of draft resolution entitled “The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East,” as contained in document L.2, and this out of our belief in the importance of this issue for the peace of our region and the world at large, and as a reflection of our true belief in the need to establish a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East.

We have referred in earlier statements to the fact that Syria was one of the first countries that have called for the establishment of a Middle East free of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction, as of our adherence to the NPT back in 1969. My country did submit an initiative whereby we would achieve this lofty goal. We have submitted a proposal to the Security Council in order to free the zone of all nuclear weapons of mass destruction in 2003, and we called upon the General Assembly to supervise the implementation of such a goal, and with the participation of all stakeholders related to demilitarization.

Israel has introduced an ironic comedy. They have reminded us of a sad comedy, whereby they refer to the threats of Israeli weapons and they distract our attention of the capabilities of Israel, nuclear capabilities of Israel. They want it to distract us from the fact that Israel has not adhered to the NPT, has not subjected its nuclear facilities to the IAEA safeguards. Although there is a worldwide consensus about the unique threat in the Middle East, which lies in the fact that Israel is a possessor of nuclear weapons, and that it can use these weapons to many regions, and it has also biological weapons. Some would try to open Byzantine dialogue distracting our attention from suspect activities in a nonobjective approach. It is rather ironic that the representative of Israel has come up with provocation and throwing stones to other people’s houses whereas their own houses are made of glass. And Israel is still adamant in its position to reject the arsenal of resolutions emanating from the relevant organizations.

Mr. Chairman, we are truly disappointed to see this undeclared alliance with Israel on the part of the European Union, casting doubt on my country as far as its cooperation with the IAEA is concerned. This has come in a provocative manner, outside the proper timing. It does distract us from the rejection of Israel of its obligations in the Middle East.

The representatives of the European Union are not in a position to give lessons or criticize other people. We have to remind them that there are many, numerous members of the European Union are in a situation of noncompliance as far as the NPT is concerned. They have nuclear weapons on their territories, in addition to their direct and indirect cooperation, declared and undeclared cooperation with Israel through their supply of nuclear, biological, chemical technology and all the material that are useful to the dissemination, proliferation of these weapons.

Mr. Chairman, we have tried to implement the NPT obligations. We have concluded comprehensive safeguards with the International Atomic Energy Agency and we received the inspectors of the IAEA in order to monitor our activities.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.