

Fellow Delegates,

It is today on this anniversary of my people's deliverance from slavery and death in Egypt that I must address a danger that cannot be ignored. That danger is a nuclear-armed Islamic Republic of Iran.

To those who would claim that Iran is not seeking a nuclear weapon, I would ask you to look at the facts. Iran's nuclear program has been the subject of seven UNSC resolutions since the 1990s. Their noncompliance with the IAEA and alarming policies of secrecy and deception have left the world in fear of an arms race in the Middle East and the acquisition of nuclear weapons by terrorist groups. These violations are not minor bureaucratic oversights, but serious breaches of conduct. They have forced the world to conclude that Iran seeks not peaceful atomic energy, but the most devastating weapons on this planet. If it looks like a duck, walks like a duck, and quacks like a duck, then it must be a duck. A nuclear duck.

Iran cannot be taken seriously when it claims to be in good standing with the NPT. Until it falls in line with the standards they agreed to, it must be concluded that Tehran has forfeited its right to nuclear technology.

My country's concerns about Iran are not unwarranted. We have had firsthand experience with Iranian aggression. Tehran has supported terrorist groups like Hamas and Hezbollah that have launched repeated attacks against Israel and Jews worldwide. These attacks do not discriminate between military personnel, government officials, and civilians, including women and children. School buses and community centers have felt the wrath of Tehran's callous minions.

President Ahmadinejad has shocked the world with his outrageous, hateful rhetoric. Denying the systematic extermination of six million Jews and calling for my homeland to be “wiped off the map” is reprehensible, even from the hardline strongmen in control in Tehran. Israel cannot tolerate a genocidal regime acquiring nuclear weapons!

Fellow delegates, I would urge you to adopt the strictest possible sanctions against Iran if they do not cease their unlawful enrichment of Uranium. These sanctions must target Iran’s oil and natural gas industries. Iran must be forced to choose between their illicit, doomed attempts to develop nuclear weapons and being a member of the world economy. Further steps can also be taken. I would like to stress the importance of ballistic missile defense technology in protecting peace-loving countries from nuclear attack by rogue nations. This is something the United States, Russia, and my own country can all attest to.

And Iran, I say to you: if you are not developing a nuclear bomb, demonstrate it. Stop your enrichment process as a good faith gesture. Allow IAEA inspectors complete access to your facilities and projects at Natanz, Bushehr, Qom, Tehran, Arak, and Parchin.

To conclude: Israel seeks a peaceful Middle East. We do not want war. But there cannot be peace under the shadow of a nuclear threat from Iran. Only when safety is assured can there be true peace.

Thank you. Shalom.