

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia, which is aware of the devastating effects associated with the production and use of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, whether by States or by non-State actors, is convinced that the proliferation of such weapons and their means of delivery constitutes a threat to international peace and security. Saudi Arabia has repeatedly called, and calls once again, for an end to the production, use, possession, transport and stockpiling of these weapons, given their devastating effects at the national, regional and international levels.

At the international level, Saudi Arabia's commitment to non-proliferation prompted it to accede to the major treaties and conventions on nuclear, biological and chemical weapons of mass destruction; to the Geneva Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare; and to the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Seabed and on the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof. This is the official position of Saudi Arabia, which is playing an active role in efforts to combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Saudi Arabia would, in fact, like to see weapons of mass destruction totally eliminated, in order to safeguard international peace and security. It has, moreover, supported the relevant United Nations resolutions on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction adopted each year by the General Assembly, such as resolution 58/46, "Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons"; resolution 58/47, "Reducing nuclear danger"; resolution 58/56, "Nuclear disarmament"; resolution 58/48, "Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction"; and resolution 58/59, "A path to the total elimination of nuclear weapons". With respect to the Biological Weapons Convention, Saudi Arabia participates regularly in the meetings of the ad hoc group of States parties to the Convention responsible for ensuring implementation of all aspects of the Convention and monitoring the strengthening of measures to combat proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Saudi Arabia also participates in the Conference of States Parties. In both cases, Saudi Arabia has submitted working papers giving a full listing of the measures taken in implementation of the Convention.

The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is an extremely serious matter, since such weapons could fall into the hands of non-State actors and could be used by terrorist groups, among others. In the context of the introduction of special measures for monitoring nuclear and radioactive materials, and of efforts to combat illicit trade in such materials, Saudi Arabia is taking steps to strengthen mechanisms for monitoring the transport of radioactive, nuclear and other dangerous materials, and for detecting smuggling of such materials, at border crossing points.