Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the United Nations New York



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UN/1/25- 165

12 March 2008

Excellency,

With reference to your letter S/AC.44/2007/ODA/OC.90 dated 17 October 2007, pertaining to the reporting requirements on the implementation of UNSC resolution 1540, I am pleased to attach hereto the up-to-date information (in Arabic), received from the relevant authorities in the Kingdom of Bahrain pursuant to SC resolution 1673 (2006).

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration

Tawfeeq Ahmed Almansoor Ambassador Permanent Representative

H.E. Mr. Peter Burian Chairman Security Council Committee established Pursuant to Resolution 1540(2004)

Translated from Arabic

Some proposed additions to the matrix are listed below by table. It should be noted that in accordance with article 37 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain, treaties have the force of law once they have been signed, ratified and published in the Official Gazette. This means that the provisions of agreements that have been acceded to have the force of law in Bahrain.

Table 1

Line 11 on the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

To be added:

An environmental protection agency has been established, and is registered in an IAEA guide of 3 November 2006 as a national authority for the control of radiation sources.

The Kingdom of Bahrain's application for membership in IAEA was approved at the fifty-first regular session of the Agency's General Conference.

The Kingdom of Bahrain signed a safeguards agreement with IAEA along with an additional small quantities protocol.

Item 13 on Other Conventions/Treaties

To be added:

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) was ratified by Law No. 2 of 2004.

Table 3 (chemical weapons)

To be added:

The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons (CWC) was ratified by Law No. 6 of 1997.

Table 4 (nuclear weapons)

To be added:

Accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) was approved and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) was ratified by Law No. 2 of 2004.

With regard to civil and criminal penalties:

A proposed law on protection against radioactive materials is being considered and debated in accordance with constitutional procedures. It prohibits the establishment or administration of any nuclear installation, or the circulation, stockpiling, transfer, import or introduction of any sources of ionizing radiation. The same would apply to radioactive waste or by-products resulting from usage or transfer.

Tables 2 and 5 (biological weapons)

To be added:

Bahrain's accession to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (BWC) was approved by Decree No. 9 of 1988.

Table 6 (chemical weapons)

To be added:

A law has been drafted and is currently under debate in accordance with constitutional procedures that would prohibit the development, production, stockpiling or acquisition of chemical weapons or the pursuit of any related activities, except by authorization issued for that purpose by the agency designated by that law. It imposes criminal penalties for such actions of up to capital punishment, and imprisonment and fines, in addition to confiscation.

Table 7 (prohibition of nuclear weapons)

To be added:

A proposed law is under debate that would prohibit the use of radioactive materials. It contains a definition of acts that constitute criminal offences and the penalties imposed for them. These acts consist of the production, manufacture, circulation, import or stockpiling of ionizing radioactive materials. This proposed law also provides for the establishment of a national committee to combat the use of radioactive materials.

Table 8 (controls of biological weapons)

To be added:

Decree No. 35 of 1995 has been issued approving accession to the Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection.

Decree No. 11 of 1992 has been issued ratifying the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal.

Table 9 (controls of chemical weapons)

To be added:

A law has been submitted and is currently under debate and consideration in accordance with constitutional procedures that would prohibit the development, production, acquisition or stockpiling of chemical weapons or the pursuit of activities relating to the development, production, transfer or use of toxic organic chemicals and their precursors. Some of its provisions impose penalties of up to capital punishment and life imprisonment.

The Council of Ministers is also considering a draft resolution establishing a national committee for the prohibition of chemical weapons.

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Table 10

To be added:

A proposed law on radioactive materials has been submitted and is currently under debate and consideration in accordance with constitutional procedures and would prohibit the establishment, operation, transfer or administration of any nuclear installation within the Kingdom, or the circulation, import or introduction of any sources of ionizing radiation. The same would apply to radioactive waste or byproducts resulting from any such uses. It includes a definition of acts that would be considered criminal offences related to the use or establishment of any nuclear installation in the Kingdom or any handling or import of such material, and imposes criminal penalties of imprisonment, fines and confiscation.

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It also provides for the establishment of a national committee for protection against radioactive materials to oversee all activities related to such materials and their licensing.