



International Atomic Energy Agency

General Conference 60th Session

Statement by the United Arab Emirates

Delivered by H.E. Ambassador Hamad Alkaabi

UAE Permanent Representatives to the IAEA

Mr. President,

I congratulate you on your assumption of the Presidency of the 60th session of the IAEA General Conference. Allow me also to extend my appreciation to Director General Mr. Yukiya Amano for his commendable leadership, and take this opportunity to congratulate the Agency for successful 60 years of promoting peaceful uses of nuclear technology.

My delegation welcomes the Islamic Republic of the Gambia Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and Grenadines as new members to the IAEA.

Mr. President,

The UAE highly appreciates the Agency's central and crucial role in promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy and ensuring non-proliferation. We commend the tireless efforts of the Director General and the Secretariat in fulfilling their mandates to this end. The UAE reaffirms its position in working closely with the IAEA and conforming to its standards, as underlined in my country's nuclear policy principles.

This year marks the 40th anniversary since the UAE joined the IAEA and started a successful partnership of cooperation for which we express appreciation to the Agency in providing the opportunity to cooperate with the UAE in more than 170 Technical Cooperation projects. Today, more than 60 national stakeholders from the UAE participates in various IAEA programmes and projects. Since 2011, we have recorded more than 3200 UAE participants in the Agency's activities. The UAE hosted more than 120 IAEA activities in the UAE since 2011, including workshops and conferences.

Mr. President,

Following its 2008 decision to develop a nuclear energy programme, the UAE has been committed to the highest international standards and has used strong quality management tools to create and enforce regulations that protect people and environment from potential nuclear and radiation hazards.

I am pleased to inform the Conference that since the deployment of the national nuclear programme by the UAE, the construction of my country's first nuclear power plant is progressing well and in a timely manner. Four nuclear power reactors are in the advanced stage of construction in the Barakah Nuclear Power Plant with more than 70% completion in total. The construction of the Barakah Unit 1 is more than 90% complete. In making such progress, the UAE views the Agency as a valuable partner, follows its guidance, receives support and provides feedback to the Agency's work.

The UAE looks forward to hosting the 'IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power in the 21 Century' in Abu Dhabi in 2017, and expects the future conference to be instrumental in deliberating on nuclear power's long-term contribution to sustainable development.

Mr. President,

Nuclear power deployment continues to grow globally. The Agency has made tremendous efforts in enhancing global nuclear safety and we strongly endorse the Agency's pivotal role in this area. Achieving the highest standards of nuclear safety is fundamental to successful and sustainable use of nuclear energy. The UAE continues to comply with all its obligations under the international safety conventions. The UAE actively participated and presented its second National Report at the 5th Review Meeting of the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and Radioactive Waste Management in May 2015, and submitted its third National Report for the 7th Review Meeting of the Convention on Nuclear Safety, to be held in March and April 2017. The Convention on Nuclear Safety and its peer review mechanism is a valuable instrument. We encourage countries with significant nuclear activities, such as the Islamic Republic of Iran, to join the Convention at an early date. Iran is the only country with significant nuclear activities that has not yet joined the Convention on Nuclear Safety.

Another valuable tools are the peer review services provided by the Agency. Since 2011, the UAE has received 6 major peer review missions and is planning for 5 more in the coming two years as we get closer to the commissioning phase of the UAE nuclear power project.

The UAE emergency preparedness and response has been enhanced with the UAE participation in meetings under the IAEA auspices,. In Feb of this year , UAE conducted its first major nuclear emergency response exercise. An IAEA team supported and observed the preparation, conduct and evaluation of the emergency exercise.

Mr. President,

The UAE commends the IAEA for its central role in the transfer of knowledge and technology to support developmental needs of Member States. The Technical Cooperation Programme remains an essential channel of support which will contribute to attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The UAE has received value services through the TC Programme to support the development of the infrastructure and human resources required for a safe, secure and successful nuclear energy programme.

We continue to enhance our cooperation with IAEA through sharing best practices and strategic partnerships; two new Practical Arrangements were signed since last year to foster collaboration with the Agency in areas of water management, combating desertification, and nuclear medicine. The UAE hosted two Nuclear Energy Management Schools in 2012 and 2015, and plans for another one in 2017.

Allow Mr. President here to also commend the Director General for the achieved progress so far in the establishment of the international low enriched uranium fuel bank. The project is a key step in the international efforts to support the expansion of nuclear power in a responsible way.

Mr. President,

The UAE underlines the importance of the IAEA's work in promoting nuclear security through coordination, cooperation and the sharing of best practices. We welcome the entry into force of the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection on Nuclear Material (CPPNM). The UAE has been an active participant in the Nuclear Security Summit since its inception, including the recent one held in Washington this year. We have implemented an Integrated Nuclear Security Support plan with the IAEA and look forward to receiving an International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS) mission this coming November.

Mr. President,

The UAE emphasizes the key role of the Agency's Safeguards system, in providing credible means to assure that nuclear material and facilities are being used only for peaceful purposes. The Additional Protocol is a valuable tool for the Agency towards this end. We encourage countries that have not ratified the AP to do so at an early date. Countries with concerns surrounding their nuclear activities should take all the required steps to address international concerns and to restore confidence in the exclusive peaceful nature of their programmes.

This brings me to the issue of the Middle East Zone free of Nuclear Weapons and other WMDs. The failure of the 2015 NPT Review Conference and failure to convene the 2012 conference were a disappointment to my country and the countries of the Middle East region. The UAE will continue to support all constructive efforts.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, The UAE looks forward to continue working with the IAEA and the international community to ensure the responsible, safe and transparent use of nuclear energy. I thank again the Director General Yukiya Amano and the Secretariat for the tremendous achievements the Agency has completed since last year but also during the 60 years of its work.

I thank you, Mr. President