

**Statement of the Head of Delegation of
The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
At the IAEA 63rd General Conference
Vienna; Austria
16-20 September, 2019**

May I start by saying Bismillah Al-Rahman Al-Raheem... In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful...

All the praises and thanks be to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds, and may prayers and peace be upon our prophet, Muhammad...

Your Excellency Ms Alicia MASSIEU, President of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency,

Your Excellency Mr. Cornel Feruta, Acting Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency,

Your Excellencies, distinguished audience, ladies and gentlemen...

Good morning.

It is my pleasure to be with you here today at such an important international gathering.

I would like to begin by expressing my deep grief at the loss of Mr. Yukiya Amano, the previous Director General of the IAEA, and to extend my heartfelt condolences and sincere sympathy to his family and to all the staff of the Agency. I also wish Mr. Cornel Feruta, the Acting Director General, every success in conducting the business of the Agency during this transitional period.

Furthermore, I would like to congratulate you, Your Excellency Ms Alicia MASSIEU, on being elected as President of the 63rd General Conference of the IAEA, and I would like to assure you of the Saudi delegation's strong determination to fully cooperate in ensuring

the success of this conference, and achieving the best possible outcomes of its meetings.

Madam President,

Distinguished Audience,

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia supports the promotion of the peaceful use of atomic energy, which best serves the goals of sustainable development and of the environment. The Kingdom also supports and endorses active international cooperation with regard to the transfer of nuclear technology and expertise within the framework of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement.

On the basis of these well-established convictions, Saudi Arabia is currently carrying out its national atomic energy program in a way that would make the program, in all its phases, compatible with the relevant legislative frameworks and international technical standards, working in collaboration with the IAEA and several other agencies and countries that have experience in the nuclear field.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia commends the various technical and advisory missions and services offered by the IAEA, and confirms that it is keen to take advantage of these missions and services to develop our own national program for atomic energy. Examples of the IAEA's missions to Saudi Arabia include the Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review mission (INIR), the Low Power Research Reactor safety review mission (LPRR), the Technical Safety Review mission (TSR), the Integrated Regulatory Review Service mission (IRRS) and the Emergency Preparedness Review Service mission (EPREV), among others.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia believes that the enhancement of the role of nuclear and renewable energy in power generation represents an essential factor in supporting the ongoing efforts aimed at reducing carbon emissions and expanding the use of sustainable and environment friendly energy sources. This approach will be at the top of the Kingdom's agenda during our G20 Presidency next year.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia underscores the importance of the commitment of all countries to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, and their adherence to all the key provisions of the treaty that call for nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and the inalienable right to the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. We would like to express our concern over the slow progress in achieving the Treaty's ultimate goal of complete nuclear disarmament.

The Kingdom calls for achieving universality of the Non-Proliferation Treaty through the accession to the Treaty of all non-party states, placing all their nuclear facilities under full-scope safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

In addition, Saudi Arabia supports all the positive initiatives that aim at establishing the Middle East as a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. We further call upon the international community to take serious steps towards the implementation of the 1995 resolution, concerning the Middle East, and the Action Plan of the 2010 Review

Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Furthermore, the Kingdom emphasizes the need for active participation of all concerned states in the upcoming conference on the establishment of the Middle East as a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, to be held next November in New York.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is deeply concerned about the recent developments in the Iranian nuclear program, particularly Iran's persistent violations against its nuclear-related commitments, its breach of the maximum allowable limit on the stockpiles of low-enriched uranium, as well as exceeding its uranium enrichment limit. The Kingdom believes that such actions represent a flagrant violation, and a blatant defiance, of international law.

Therefore, we call upon the international community to confront such violations, and to adopt a more robust and tough stance towards Iran. This is particularly necessary in the light of Iran's long track record of violating its international commitments and offering continued support to terrorist groups and militias and providing them with strategic weapon systems and means of delivery. These actions continue to pose a serious threat to peace and security, both regionally and globally.

Inadequacy in the Iranian nuclear facilities to comply with some key operational safety standards, such as the reports on the emergency arrangements in the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant, which is located in a seismically active area, have raised more concerns about the possible occurrence of a nuclear catastrophe in the region. The impact of such a nuclear catastrophe, if it occurs - God forbid- would extend to the territories of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and neighboring states and would destroy the marine life in the Arabian Gulf. Undoubtedly, these concerns further emphasize the urgent need for greater attention to be paid by the international community to verify the operational safety measures at the Bushehr plant, especially given that Iran is not a party to a number of relevant international arrangements, including the Convention on Nuclear Safety.

Distinguished Audience,

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia exerts enormous efforts to combat terrorism in all its forms, including nuclear terrorism. As part of these efforts, the Kingdom has donated 10 million dollars to establish a specialized center for nuclear security under the supervision of the IAEA. Because of the Kingdom's desire for the center to achieve its full potential, we call upon member states to contribute to the funding of the center and to support the IAEA to ensure the center operates effectively.

In this regard, the Kingdom strongly supports the efforts made by the IAEA to organize the International Conference on Nuclear Security, "Sustaining and Strengthening Efforts", to be held in February 2020. In addition, the Kingdom calls upon all member states to contribute to the success of the conference and the enhancement of the global nuclear security system.

Madam President,

Mr. Acting Director General,

Distinguished Audience,

I would like to conclude my statement by reaffirming my country's continued support of the International Atomic Energy Agency and all its efforts and initiatives.

Thank you very much for your attention, and I wish you every success with the conference.