



International Atomic Energy Agency
General Conference 63rd Session
Statement by the United Arab Emirates
Delivered by H.E. Ambassador Hamad Alkaabi
Permanent Representative of the UAE to the IAEA
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Madam President,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency of the sixty-third session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and assure you of the full cooperation and support of my delegation. Allow me also to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the outstanding achievements of the late Director-General Yukiya Amano throughout his dedicated career in leading the important work of the IAEA's 'Atoms for Peace and Development' mandate.

The IAEA continues to play a central role in supporting the peaceful use of nuclear technology for its Member States in both nuclear energy and applications. My delegation notes the extensive efforts being made by the Agency to provide a wide range of critical technical assistance, as well as fundamental guidance in the responsible use of nuclear techniques. The IAEA also provides an important platform for the Member States to constructively cooperate in the areas of nuclear safety, security and non-proliferation.

Madam President,

The UAE is in its final stage of construction of its 4-Unit Barakah nuclear power plant. Construction of Unit 1 has been completed; Unit 2 is following closely at 95% completion; Unit 3 at 91% and Unit 4 at 82%. From the outset of the UAE's nuclear power programme, my country has followed the IAEA's Milestones Approach to ensure complete adherence to and compliance with the highest standards of safety, security, transparency and non-proliferation.

My country has hosted 12 major IAEA review missions to date, one of which was the first-of-its kind: the Phase 3 of the Integrated Nuclear



Infrastructure Review (INIR) mission, conducted in June 2018. Just this month, the UAE has received a follow-up Emergency Preparedness Review Mission. The Member States with current or future nuclear energy plans are encouraged to take advantage of these IAEA review services.

Madam President,

The IAEA Technical Cooperation (TC) Program provides critical support to the Member States in the peaceful applications of nuclear technology. The United Arab Emirates continues its close cooperation with the Agency through the TC to develop the infrastructure and build capacity required for the nuclear energy program and in other sectors namely health, agriculture and the environment. Since 2010, we involved more than 210 experts from the UAE in the Agency's various activities, and piloted various initiatives such as hosting the 1st IAEA INIR Phase 3 mission and introducing the First National Nuclear Science for Development Competition targeting high-schools students in the UAE. In order to maintain the technical progress achieved through the TC, it is imperative to provide to the Agency's Technical Cooperation Program the required funding to support its technical assistance to the Member States.

Madam President,

As a party to all international conventions in the area of nuclear safety, the UAE provides timely and comprehensive reporting and actively participates in the review meetings of the Convention on Nuclear Safety and of the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management. My country notes the importance of the universalization of these conventions and encourages countries with significant nuclear activities, such as Iran, which have not yet joined the CNS, to do so at an early date.

Madam President,

In the area of nuclear security, the UAE complies with all obligations under international conventions and supports the Agency's efforts to take effective steps towards achieving the universality of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM). We stress the importance of this Convention and its Amendment in establishing a global mechanism to ensure the physical protection of nuclear material. In fulfilment of its obligations under Article 14, paragraph 1, of the CPPNM as amended, the UAE has submitted to the IAEA,



the depository of the convention, information on the UAE laws and regulations, which give effect to the CPPNM and its Amendment.

Regarding the IAEA verification measures, my country considers the Additional Protocol to the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement a critical component to complement the IAEA safeguards system. Full compliance with these verification measures allows for global confidence in the peaceful nature of nuclear programmes of countries.

Madam President,

With regard to the JCPOA, my country calls on Iran to honor its obligations under the IAEA safeguards, the NPT and its commitments under the JCPOA and to fully cooperate with the IAEA to address all concerns related to its nuclear activities, as well as to refrain from actions that could undermine the nonproliferation regime. We hope the current situation in respect to the JCPOA offers an opportunity to the international community to devise a new approach towards addressing concerns and threats of Iran's nuclear and regional activities..

In the same vein, my delegation emphasizes the urgent need to implement measures to strengthen the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and to achieve its universalization. The establishment of a Middle East nuclear weapons and other WMD free zone is a priority in the context . We are hopeful that the current review cycle of the NPT would witness fruitful progress in the implementation of the agreed Action Plan of 2010

Madam President,

To conclude, my country remains committed to a strong, on-going partnership with the IAEA in our responsible approach to the development of a national nuclear power programme and to the use of nuclear applications. My delegation also looks forward to a continued collaboration with other Member States, who like us, strive to achieve the highest standards of nuclear safety, security and safeguards at both national and international levels. The UAE commends the work of the IAEA Secretariat for its unwavering support and excellent cooperation with my country.

I thank you, Madam President.