



**Statement of the UAE to the IAEA International Conference on Nuclear Security**  
**Vienna 10-14 February 2020**  
**Delivered by H.E. Ambassador Hamad Alkaabi**  
**Permanent Representative of UAE to IAEA**

Mr. President, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on the assumption of the presidency of this International Conference on Nuclear Security held under the auspices of IAEA. This high-level Conference, which is the third of its kind, marks an important step forward in the efforts of the international community towards sustaining and strengthening nuclear security worldwide. I assure you of the full cooperation and support of my delegation. We extend our thanks to the Co-Chairs of Romania and Panama for their leading efforts in preparation for this conference.

This international conference is timely and instrumental, Nuclear terrorism and serious threats that result from malicious acts using nuclear or other radioactive materials continue to pose considerable risks to the international community.

We are pleased to see rigorous measures are being implemented in a number of IAEA Member States in enhancing their national security regimes. We highly value the important role the IAEA plays towards this end.

I take this opportunity to announce that issuance license to operate the first unit of the Barakah nuclear power plant in my country is in the final stage and is expected to be issued soon. This significant milestone in the development of the peaceful nuclear programme of the UAE has taken place only 12 years after the United Arab Emirates (UAE) issued its Policy on the Evaluation and Potential Development of Peaceful Nuclear Energy. Immense work at the national level was done to achieve such an important milestone.

UAE has adopted a robust integrated approach, where nuclear security, safety and safeguards are addressed together, with close attention being paid to the interfaces between safety and security.



Nuclear security has always been a key element to which the UAE is fully committed. My country attaches great importance to universal adherence to and full implementation of international instruments relevant to nuclear security. The UAE acceded to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) in 2003 and its amendment in 2009. UAE is also a party to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, and fully implementing the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources. UAE has developed a solid legislative and regulatory framework and adopted a series of measures to ensure the full implementation of these conventions and global best practices.

Mr. President,

Nuclear security cannot be strengthened and sustained at the international level without extensive international cooperation and assistance. The UAE as a nuclear newcomer country has worked closely with the International Atomic Energy Agency to develop a strong national nuclear security regime and thus benefitted from numerous international review missions and training courses in the field of nuclear security.

While maturing its expertise in nuclear security, UAE also contributes to the IAEA work through its participation in the Nuclear Security Guidance Committee (NSGC) as well as through supporting important initiatives such as hosting the 2013 International Conference on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources. with our partners, we have hosted the first Inter-Arab Nuclear Detection and Response Exercise FALCON in to strengthen national and regional interagency coordination and cooperation, and enhance information sharing.

Mr. President,

Through continued international cooperation and effective national policies, UAE remains committed to further working towards enhancing nuclear security on all fronts.

My delegation welcomes the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration at this conference and is confident that the extensive work of the IAEA and its Member States will have a fruitful outcome to this end.

I thank you, Mr. President.