



International Atomic Energy Agency

General Conference 66<sup>th</sup> Session

**Statement by the United Arab Emirates**

**Delivered by**

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**Mr. President,**

I would like to congratulate you on your assumption of the Presidency of the 66<sup>th</sup> session of the IAEA General Conference. Allow me to extend my appreciation to the Director General of the IAEA, Mr. Rafael Mariano Grossi, for his strong leadership, commitment and dedication to the work of the Agency .

My delegation welcomes Saint Kitts and Nevis Tonga as new members to the IAEA.

**Mr. President,**

The IAEA has a central role in supporting its member states in their pursuit, development and sustainment of peaceful uses of nuclear energy applications. My delegation commends the Agency's efforts in providing technical support and a platform for international cooperation, as well as its endless efforts in ensuring non-proliferation

Last week , the UAE has announced the start-up of the third unit at the Barakah nuclear power plant, fifteen months after Barakah unit two became commercially operational. With this historic milestone at Barakah plant, the UAE continues to uphold the highest standards of safety , security and non-proliferation while leading the biggest de-carbonization efforts in the region . When fully operational, the four units will produce 5.6 gigawatts of electricity while preventing the release of more than 21 million tons of carbon emission every year , bringing UAE closer to achieving Net Zero by 2050 ..as we look forward to host COP 28 in the UAE next year .

This milestone been possible through strong national commitment, and a robust international cooperation including the valuable partnership with the Agency.

**Mr. President ,**

The UAE views commitment to transparency as a fundamental principle of its peaceful nuclear programme, and has joined the global community with its commitment to international safety instruments such as the Convention on Nuclear Safety and the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management. The UAE has submitted all relevant National Reports under these conventions and ensures robust participation in their review processes. We welcome the agency's efforts to encourage member states, especially those planning , constructing, commissioning or operating nuclear power plants to become contracting parties to the CNS. Global adherence to safety conventions, participating in their review process along with IAEA's peer review services would help build confidence and strengthen nuclear safety globally.

We have hosted in October last year the IAEA's Convex-3 Exercise, becoming the sixth country globally to host such an intensive exercise. Over 76 Member States, 12 international countries and 111 international laboratories took part in the complex exercise. The UAE demonstrated its robust emergency preparedness and response system as well as its sound international multilateral ties to coordinate response efforts.

This brings me to the situation in Ukraine , We remain concerned with the situation in and around nuclear facilities in Ukraine. The reported violent actions at nuclear facilities in Ukraine pose a serious threat to the safety and security of these facilities, to their personnel, to millions of civilians, and to the environment. The international community must make every possible effort to avoid a nuclear disaster, and we must ensure that nuclear plants and related facilities are not a target and remain protected from conflict. We welcome the efforts by the IAEA's Director General towards this end including the recent IAEA Support and Assistance Mission at Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant .

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**Mr. President ,**

The UAE emphasizes the indispensable role of the IAEA's safeguards system, in ensuring that all nuclear material and facilities are being used exclusively for peaceful purposes. We call on countries with concerns surrounding their nuclear activities to provide the necessary cooperation with the Agency and to restore confidence in the exclusive peaceful nature of their programme. With regard to the nuclear programme of the Islamic Republic of Iran , my delegation is concerned that Iran has not engaged in substance with the Agency to address outstanding safeguards issues, which remained unresolved . We call on Iran to address all concerns in a verifiable, timely and complete manner, to refrain from any actions that could undermine the Agency's safeguards and the global nonproliferation regime, and to further build confidence in the peaceful intent and nature of its nuclear activities .

**Mr. President,**

The UAE considers the strengthening of nuclear security worldwide to be a clear priority, that can enhance public confidence in the peaceful use of nuclear applications. we welcome the Agency's continuous support to its Member States, in areas such as strengthening the implementation of nuclear security measures.

My delegation would like to highlight the indispensable efforts of the Agency towards achieving universalization of the CPPNM and its Amendment and encourages the IAEA to continue its efforts to assist States, in adhering to and fully implementing the Convention and its Amendment

The UAE adheres to its obligations under the CPPNM and its Amendment and welcomes the outcome document of the Conference of the Parties to the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material held earlier this year.

**Mr. President,**

Strengthening the Treaty of the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons requires taking serious steps towards achieving its universalization. UAE continues to support all

constructive efforts towards the goal of establishing a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction (WMD) in the Middle East. We that regret that recent NPT review conference held last month in New York, was not able to move this agenda forward . We hope the upcoming review cycle of the NPT will set the stage for important dialogue and assessment of the progress made .

In relation to the proposed announced transfer of nuclear powered submarine under the AUKUS trilateral partnership , my delegation welcomes the commitment of the parties involved to work closely with the Agency to ensure non-proliferation and safeguards objectives are met, and consistent with their obligations under the NPT and respective safeguards agreements .

**Mr. President,**

In conclusion, the UAE looks forward to continue working with the IAEA and its Member States in promoting and ensuring peaceful use of nuclear energy. I thank again the Director General, Rafael Mariano Grossi, and the secretariat for the excellent work the Agency has completed since last year.

I thank you, Mr. President