



International Atomic Energy Agency

General Conference 61<sup>ST</sup> 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 61st session of the IAEA General Conference. I assure my delegation's full support and cooperation. Allow me also to extend my appreciation to Director General Mr. Yukiya Amano for his commendable leadership.

My delegation welcomes Grenada as new member to the IAEA.

The UAE highly appreciates the Agency's continues efforts in helping the member states to benefit from the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Much progress has been achieved, we commend the tireless efforts of the Director General and the Secretariat in fulfilling their mandates to this end.

Mr. President,

Nuclear power continues to play an important role and contributing to reducing greenhouse gas emissions while delivery large scale energy to support economies and population growth worldwide. The UAE is in the final stages of construction of its first NPP with the commissioning process underway. The construction of my country's four nuclear power reactors continues to progress well and in a timely manner with overall completion of all four units more than 82%. The completion rate of Barakah Unit 1 reached over 96%. In making this progress, the UAE recognizes the Agency's indispensable role in supporting the development of its national programme.

UAE looks forward to hosting the 'IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power in the 21 Century' in Abu Dhabi at the end of October 2017, and expects the conference to be instrumental in deliberating on nuclear power's long-term contribution to sustainable development .I am confident that the participation of your governments at the ministerial level will add to the success of the conference, and UAE looks forward to welcoming your delegations to Abu Dhabi in October.

Mr. President,

The UAE continued to pay high attention to nuclear safety and maintained full compliance with its obligations under relevant safety conventions. UAE actively participates at the Review Meetings of the nuclear safety conventions and has submitted its third National Report for the 7th Review Meeting of the Convention on Nuclear Safety, which was held in March and April 2017.

My delegation is pleased to note the IAEA's continuous efforts in ensuring that nuclear energy programmes are in line with safety standards and best practices. Peer review missions conducted by the Agency are an important mechanism for reaching this objective. Since 2011, the UAE has received 8 major peer review missions . Similarly, the Convention of 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.

Mr. President,

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

We continue to share best practices and pursue strategic partnerships with the agency and its member states; This year, the UAE hosted the third IAEA Nuclear Energy Management Schools which will continue to be offered on biannual basis.

Mr. President

UAE commends the efforts of Agency and the government of Kazakhstan on progress and the opening of the IAEA low enriched uranium fuel bank storage facility. We are confident that such development will have a positive impact in supporting the expansion of the peaceful uses of nuclear technology in a responsible manner.

Mr. President,

My country recognizes the threat posed by existence of any unsecured nuclear material and facilities as well as the threat of nuclear terrorism. The UAE underlines the importance of the IAEA's work in promoting nuclear security through international cooperation and the sharing of best practices. The UAE has been an active participant in the Nuclear Security Summit series since its inception and fully welcomes the outcome of the IAEA ministerial conference on nuclear security in 2016. UAE national nuclear security framework has been developed in conformity with International nuclear security instruments and continues to comply with its obligations under the ratified international

security conventions, including the amendment to the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM).

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.

With regards to the Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), UAE hopes that Iran implements fully its obligations under the (JCPOA), and to refrain from activities that are not inline with the obligations and the spirit of the agreement. Full and transparent implementation of the JCPOA is essential to build confidence and credibility in Iran's nuclear activities.

On the issue of the Middle East Zone free of Nuclear Weapons and other WMDs, we hope the current NPT review cycle will witness serious steps to implement the agreed action plan of 2010 and to ensure the convening of the long due conference on the Middle East nuclear weapons free zone, at an early stage, and with the participation of all countries in the region.

In conclusion

My delegation looks forward to continue working with the IAEA and the international community towards promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy by ensuring and strengthening safety, security and safeguards. I thank again the Director General Yukiya Amano and the Secretariat for the tremendous achievements the Agency has completed since last year

I thank you, Mr. President