



International Atomic Energy Agency

General Conference 58th Session

Statement by the United Arab Emirates

Delivered by H.E. Ambassador Hamad Alkaabi

UAE Permanent Representative to the IAEA

Mr. President,

Allow me at the outset to congratulate you on your assumption of the Presidency of the 58th Session of the IAEA General Conference. I would also like to extend my thanks and appreciation to the Director General Mr. Yukiya Amano for his commendable leadership.

My delegation welcomes the Union of the Comoros, the Republic of Djibouti, the Republic of Guyana and the Cooperative Republic of Vanatu as new Members to the IAEA.

Mr. President,

The UAE continues to make significant progress in the development of its peaceful nuclear power programme. In 2012 we started the construction of the first reactor followed by the second unit in 2013. Construction of Unit 1 of the Barakah nuclear power plant is more than 57% completed. Early this month, two additional reactors were granted license for construction, and just yesterday the third reactor construction has started.

Mr. President,

The UAE places great importance on nuclear safety. UAE has been committed to implementing the IAEA Nuclear Safety Action Plan. Early lessons learned has been applied following the accident at Japan's Fukushima Daiichi plant in 2011. Quick action was taken, with a comprehensive safety assessment of Barakah NPP reactors currently under construction.

To strengthen its nuclear safety infrastructure, the UAE has hosted IAEA peer review missions, including IRRS mission which assessed the UAE's nuclear regulatory framework and an INIR mission which assessed the nuclear infrastructure in the country, A follow-up Integrated Regulatory Review Service is planned for next year. Other missions are scheduled to take place in the next two years include areas of Emergency Preparedness & Response (EPREV) mission, Operational Safety (OSART) mission and IPPAS security review mission.

We find peer review missions valuable and encourage Member States to utilize peer reviews to strengthen their national nuclear infrastructure.

Mr. President,

My country commends the Agency's on-going efforts in the area of nuclear safety , and looks forward to the IAEA Fukushima Report. . We expect that this Report to add substantive support to countries building or reviewing their safety infrastructure, as it will provide a factual and balanced account of the causes, consequences and lessons learned from the accident.

My country places great emphasis on international instruments in the area of nuclear safety . UAE participated in the 6th Review Meeting that took place this past April, to which its 2nd National Report on implementing the convention was submitted.

Mr. President,

Additionally , UAE hosted the International Conference on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources in October 2013. This Conference marked the 10-year anniversary of the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, and highlighted significant progress made worldwide to implement the provisions of the Code. Along with all relevant international instruments, the UAE has endorsed the Code of Conduct and its supplementary Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources and submitted its national implementation report.

In the scope of civil liability for nuclear damage, my country recognizes the importance of establishing a national liability framework, and a harmonized international liability regime . In 2012, the UAE joined to the 1997 protocol amending Vienna Convention on Nuclear Liability , and the Joint Protocol connecting Paris and Vienna Conventions. UAE has recently ratified the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage (CSC)

Mr. President,

The UAE recognizes the indispensable role of the IAEA in assisting Member States in the transfer of nuclear knowledge for peaceful use in all fields of nuclear applications. We highly appreciate the work of the Technical Cooperation department, in supporting national needs. UAE signed in 2013 an Integrated Work Plan with the Agency , to coordinate the Agency technical support to my country . UAE benefits from this support in different fields including in nuclear energy , health , agriculture among others.

Likewise, UAE continues to support agency work through sharing experience and with other Member States & through participation in IAEA Commissions, Committees and Technical meetings in various areas.

Mr. President,

My country recognizes the threat posed by the existence of any unsecured nuclear material and facilities as well as the threat of nuclear terrorism . UAE supports Agency's role in the area of nuclear security. We have participated in the Nuclear Security Summit Series since inception with the most recent Summit in the Hague in 2014.

Mr. President,

Full implementation of safeguards and commitment to non-proliferation is fundamental condition to the development of nuclear programmes. States developing nuclear energy for peaceful uses need to comply fully with their safeguards obligations; cooperate with the IAEA; and take required steps to address all international concerns and obligations including those of relevant IAEA and UN Security Council resolutions.

We support Agency's efforts to ensure the creditability and efficiency of safeguards system. We welcome the increased number of additional protocols brought into force and encourage member states who has not do so to join and bring into force additional protocol. Application of the Additional Protocol along with the comprehensive safeguards agreement enables the IAEA to provide credible assurance on the exclusive peaceful nature of nuclear activities .

Agency's support provided to member states in the area of safeguards and non-proliferation implementation is also valuable. UAE has recently & successfully undergone an IAEA mission that assessed the country's State System of Accounting for and Control of Nuclear Material.

Mr. President,

On non-compliance concerns , We call on countries whose safeguards implementation is in question , to fully cooperate with the IAEA to address all outstanding concerns, including those concerns related to the possible military dimension, and to restore confidence in the exclusive peaceful nature of their programmes.

Mr. President,

The 2010 NPT Review conference decision to hold a conference on the establishment of a middle east zone free of nuclear weapons and other WMD in 2012 was a positive outcome in a sense that the countries of the region was hoping it would be convened and implemented successfully . However, the failure to convene the conference is a disappointment to my country and countries in the region. We continue to engage in various consultation with the facilitator , the conveners and countries of the region , and call for holding such a conference at an early date . UAE looks forward to the successful convening of a conference, on a timely manner, that will pave a step towards the establishment of the Middle East's free zone from nuclear weapons and from all weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. President,

UAE will continue to work closely with the Agency and Member states towards strengthening nuclear safety , security and safeguards globally, while promoting responsible use of nuclear energy .

We thank the secretariat for the comprehensive reports made available to Member States in relation to these matters, and reassure you , Mr. President of the full cooperation of my delegation.

I thank you, Mr. President.