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Statement by the United Arab Emirates

Mr. President,

I would like to congratulate you at the outset on your assumption of the presidency for the sixty-fourth session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and to assure you of the full cooperation of my delegation. I take this opportunity to also express appreciation and thanks to the Director General of the IAEA, Mr. Rafael Mariano Grossi, for his strong leadership ensuring the continued work of the IAEA, particularly during these challenging times of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Mr. President,

I am pleased to inform the conference that on August 1st of this year, UAE witnessed the start-up of the first nuclear power reactor , Barakah Unit 1, a landmark moment as the first nuclear power plant to operate in my country and in the Arab world. Through a transparent and concise nuclear policy, coupled with tremendous efforts across a multitude of national institutions and stakeholders, and the solid support of international partners like the IAEA, the past twelve years have showcased UAE peaceful nuclear energy program as a stellar example of a nuclear newcomer country developing its nuclear power programme in line with the IAEA guidance and international best practices. The UAE's robust partnership with the Agency has, in particular, allowed the UAE to ensure that its programme is developed to the highest standards of nuclear safety, nuclear security, safeguards and transparency. It is with this comprehensive approach that Barakah NPP has achieved criticality only 12 years after the decision to establish the peaceful programme. Construction of Unit 2 is now also completed , with Unit 3 and Unit 4 in the final stages of construction. Once all four Units are operational, Barakah NPP is estimated to provide 25% of the country's electricity needs and save the UAE up to 21 million tons of carbon emissions every year, a significant contribution to combating climate change.



Mr. President,

The UAE has followed the IAEA's Milestones Approach in its development of the national nuclear infrastructure, completing 12 major IAEA peer review services to date, joining all relevant international conventions in the area of nuclear safety, security and safeguards, and implementing a comprehensive Technical Cooperation (TC) programme with the Agency.

The UAE has concluded a seven-year Integrated Work Plan with the IAEA, which has channeled IAEA support since 2013 to the development of human resources and infrastructure of the UAE's peaceful nuclear power programme. The UAE was the first newcomer country to develop and implement such work plan with the IAEA.

The TC programme has also been critical in supporting the UAE's non-power nuclear applications in the sectors of health, agriculture and the environment. With a significant support of the IAEA technical cooperation to the medical sector, the country has established programmes for advanced degrees in medical physics, enhanced safety of radiation use in medical practices, and hosted four Quality Assurance review missions in major hospitals. My country has launched initiatives to encourage and educate young Emiratis in nuclear science and applications, and continue promoting the participation of women in the nuclear sector.

The UAE welcomes the response by the IAEA in light of challenges arising from the Covid-19 pandemic, and commends the Agency for its delivery of support services to address the Coronavirus related challenges in several countries. We are also grateful for the IAEA's approach to finding strategic ways to ensure on-going work to meet the needs of its Member States through new initiatives such as ZODIAC.

Mr. President,

In the area of nuclear safety, the UAE is an active participant in meetings of the review processes under the Convention on Nuclear Safety and the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management. My country supports efforts in ensuring wider participation of member states in such reviews. We continue to call upon countries with operational nuclear power plants that have not yet joined the CNS, such as Iran, to do so without delay.

Under the scope of nuclear security, the UAE complies with all obligations under the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and has subscribed to its Amendment. My country has likewise promoted the universalization of the Amendment of



the CPPNM and continues to support the IAEA's role in the promotion of this important international instrument.

Mr. President,

The UAE values the indispensable role of the IAEA in the area of verification. My country has concluded a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA, as well the Additional Protocol, showcasing the nation's commitment to non-proliferation. The Additional Protocol to the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement is an important tool for the safeguards system.

We stress on the importance of full compliance with the Agency's verification measures to give the required assurances and confidence in the exclusive peaceful nature of nuclear activities in member states. In line with this, we call on Iran to fully implement its international obligations and to cooperate in full and timely manner with the agency to address all outstanding issues related to its nuclear activities.

Mr. President,

UAE has a long-standing position in support of Treaty of the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons calling for its universalization and full implementation. We note that the upcoming Review Cycle of the NPT will set the stage for important dialogue and assessment of progress made , my country supports all efforts towards the establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and other WMD.

In conclusion, we once again thank the Agency for its unwavering and comprehensive support, and express our full confidence in the Director General and the secretariat. My delegation looks forward to continue its strong and continuous partnership with the IAEA as my country transitions into the operational phase of its peaceful nuclear energy programme.

I thank you, Mr. President.