

**STATEMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA
AT THE SIXTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL
CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC
ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)**

By

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**Your Excellency the President of the General Conference,
Mr. Rafael Grossi, Director General of the International Atomic
Energy Agency,
Distinguished colleague,**

I am pleased to join you today in this important international forum, which reflects the importance of the role of the International Atomic Energy Agency in promoting international cooperation towards the goal of harnessing the atom for peace and development.

I would like to thank the Kingdom of Morocco for chairing the General Conference at the sixty-fourth session.

I would like to begin by conveying the appreciation of the leadership of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the Agency's efforts, and its staff, led by the Director General Mr. Rafael Grossi, especially under the global impact of (COVID-19) pandemic, and for taking all necessary measures to ensure the safety of the participants in this important annual event.

Thanks, to the Member States for their support and assistance to the Agency under these difficult circumstances.

The Kingdom also appreciates the efforts and initiatives of the Agency and its Director General, in developing the Agency's technical capabilities, which enhance its role in providing technical assistance and capacity-building programs to Member States in the areas of nuclear technology and regulatory aspects.

Your Excellency the President

The Kingdom is committed to its national policy, which ensures the highest standards of transparency, reliability, and the highest levels of safety. The Kingdom works, in this regard, to develop peaceful uses of nuclear technology in various fields, including its national nuclear energy project.

Therefore, the Kingdom cooperates closely with the Agency in developing this project. We also thank the Agency for providing the technical and advisory services that my country has benefited from.

I would like to express my satisfaction at the start of construction work on the Nuclear Security Center building within the Agency's laboratories buildings in Seibersdorf, which the Kingdom has supported with (10) ten million dollars, along with other friendly countries. This helps support the Agency's pivotal role in the international nuclear security system, complementing and enhancing the Agency's capabilities.

Your Excellency the President

The Kingdom highlights the importance of the countries' commitment to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, while preserving their rights to benefit from the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to invest in their natural resources within a safe environment, free from any nuclear threat.

The Kingdom calls upon the international community to achieve the ultimate goal of complete nuclear weapons disarmament globally, in order to realize the provisions of the Treaty. The Kingdom urges all States Non-Party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to rapidly accede to the Treaty and to place all of their nuclear facilities under the IAEA's comprehensive safeguards system.

The Kingdom especially emphasizes the importance of the role of zones free from weapons of mass destruction in creating a safe world, spreading peace, and strengthening the non-proliferation regime in the Middle East and the world.

The Kingdom praises the role of the Director General of the Agency in sustaining the neutrality of the Agency and its distinguished efforts in dealing with non-proliferation issues by maintaining the Agency's responsibilities in the safeguards agreement, alongside the Agency's continuing submission of its reports to the Board of Governors with regards to the seriousness of Iran in dealing with safeguards issues.

Your Excellency the President

The Kingdom expresses its concern with regards to Iran's noncompliance with its commitments to the Safeguards Agreement, and its non-

transparency with the Agency, which poses a threat to the non-proliferation regime.

The Kingdom also supports all the international efforts aiming to prevent Iran from possessing nuclear weapons, and to develop the non-proliferation regime in the region and the world.

The Kingdom also reaffirms the importance of confronting nuclear proliferation in the Middle East, which requires dealing with Israeli's nuclear threat, and which not only threatens the security and stability of the Middle East, but also the entire world. In this regard, we reaffirm the importance of the complete implementation of the decision of (1995) in creating a nuclear-weapons-free zone in the Middle East.

Your Excellency the President

I would like to conclude by stressing that the Kingdom renews its support to the Agency to harness nuclear technology for humanity. The Kingdom calls for the active cooperation of the international community in developing nuclear technology and for addressing firmly all attempts at non-peaceful and unsafe uses of nuclear energy.

Thank you, your Excellency the President and distinguished guests, and I hope that the work of this conference will be crowned with success.

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