



International Atomic Energy Agency

General Conference 65th 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 65th 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 over the past year.

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

Mr. President,

I am pleased to announce the start-up of the second unit at the UAE's Barakah nuclear power plant, thirteen months after Barakah unit one reached first criticality. This key milestone marks the point at which the Barakah plant has become the region's first multi-unit operating power plant, and another step towards achieving the UAE's climate change targets. 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. Construction of unit 3 and unit 4 is 90% and 94% complete respectively.

We remain committed to ensure and develop our nuclear power programme in line with the highest international best practices. The UAE's robust partnership with the Agency has, in particular, allowed the UAE to ensure that its programme is committed to the highest standards of nuclear safety, nuclear security, safeguards and transparency.

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 strong direction in providing technical support and a platform for international cooperation, as well as its endless efforts in ensuring non-proliferation. The UAE notes the IAEA's response in light of challenges arising from the Covid-19 pandemic, and commends the Agency for the continued delivery of its TC programme services.

The IAEA's Technical Cooperation Programme, is an important channel for assistance to Member States, which will contribute to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). UAE has received valuable support through the TC programme towards the development of its nuclear energy infrastructure and human resources.

Mr. President,

In the area of nuclear safety, my country remains committed to support the work of the Agency in strengthening nuclear safety. We continue to incorporate the highest standards of safety into all national applications of nuclear technology and we look forward to hosting the IAEA's ConvEx-3, which will test the operational arrangements of Member States under the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency.

The UAE is an active participant in meetings for the effective implementation of the review processes under the Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS) and the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management. The UAE has also submitted all relevant national reports under both conventions and ensures robust participation in their review processes. In addition, we encourage all Middle East region countries, including Iran, which have not yet joined the CNS, to join it without further delay.

Mr. President,

With regard to nuclear security, the UAE underlines the Agency's crucial efforts towards achieving universalization of the CPPNM. We note the significance of this Convention, its Amendment, and its relevance to establishing a global mechanism to ensure the physical protection of nuclear material. The UAE adheres with full compliance

to the CPPNM as amended. The UAE is looking forward to the Conference of the Parties to the Amendment to the CPPNM scheduled to take place in the week of 28 March 2022.

We also note the importance of review mechanisms set up by the IAEA and have hosted major peer review missions such as the IPPAS mission. These missions played a substantial role ensuring that human resources of the UAE nuclear sector are up to par with its peaceful nuclear power programme.

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. The UAE has concluded a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA, as well as the corresponding Additional Protocol, showcasing the nation's commitment to non-proliferation. 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 JCPOA concluded with Iran, the UAE joins the voices calling on Iran to honor its obligations under the JCPOA, IAEA safeguards and the NPT, and to cease all activities not in line with its commitments .

In light of strengthening the Treaty of the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and taking steps towards achieving its universalization, the UAE will continue 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 hope that the upcoming review cycle of the NPT will set the stage for important dialogue and assessment of the progress made in the implementation of the agreed Action Plan of 2010.

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