

**Statement of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in
International Ministerial Conference of the International Atomic Energy
Agency on Nuclear Power in the 21st Century**

Washington D.C., USA

26-28/10/2022

corresponding to 1-3/4/1444 AH

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

Your Excellency the President of the Conference,

Mr. Rafael Grossi, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency,

Your Excellencies and Highnesses,

I congratulate the chair of this conference on chairing the Fifth International Ministerial Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency on Nuclear Power in the 21st Century, stressing the support of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the success of this conference. I would also like to express my deep appreciation to the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency for his efforts in making this conference successful.

Your Excellency the President,

Distinguished Guests,

I am pleased to be with you today in this important international forum, which highlights the importance of cooperation between countries to benefit from nuclear energy for peaceful uses in the 21st Century, especially in light of the current global challenges, which require concerted international efforts to find sustainable solutions that provide reliable and environmentally friendly sources of energy. Because nuclear energy is one of the most important sources of clean energy, we affirm the inherent right of States Parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to its use for peaceful purposes.

In this regard, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia calls on the countries that export nuclear technology to commit to making the technology available to States Parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty without additional requirements outside the framework and provisions of the Treaty, or placing restrictions that prevent States from their inherent sovereign right to benefit from nuclear technology for peaceful purposes without prejudice to the nonproliferation regime.

Your Excellency the President,

Distinguished Guests,

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is determined to move forward in developing its national energy mix in accordance with the Kingdom's 2030 vision, by introducing a civilian nuclear energy program, which represents one of the pillars of the strategic direction in the national transformation towards sustainable development. In this context, the Kingdom confirms its intention to implement a number of ambitious initiatives. In this regard, the Kingdom recognizes the importance of

adopting the highest standards of nuclear safety and security in order to protect people and preserve environmental sustainability.

To achieve these ambitions, the Kingdom is keen to develop its national program within a cooperative international framework that builds sustainable strategic partnerships with countries and specialized organizations, on the basis of parity and effective planning in accordance with the highest international standards. This led the Kingdom to be a party to all international treaties and agreements related to the peaceful use of nuclear energy, in addition to concluding several bilateral cooperation agreements in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy with many countries, in order to achieve the highest levels of transparency, credibility and reliability of its civilian nuclear program.

The Kingdom's vision in this aspect is based on achieving a balance between States' obligations towards nonproliferation issues and the States' rights to benefit from the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to exploit their natural resources.

Your Excellency the President,

Distinguished Guests,

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia appreciates the pivotal role of the International Atomic Energy Agency in the transfer of nuclear science and technologies to Member States. The Kingdom believes that cooperation between countries in the field of peaceful uses of atomic energy is one of the basic necessities to achieve prosperity and stability in the world.

Therefore, the Kingdom has contributed an amount of (2.5) two and a half million dollars towards the initiative of the International Atomic Energy Agency to modernize its laboratories in Seibersdorf (ReNual-2), which will contribute to enabling the Agency to continue its programs and achieve its goals in a manner that ensures the safe use of nuclear energy. In addition, the Kingdom has contributed a million dollar to support the Agency's initiative in the Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action (ZODIAC). The Kingdom also welcomes the progress in the development of the Nuclear Security Training and Demonstration Center in the Agency's laboratories in Seibersdorf, for which the Kingdom has donated ten million dollars for its establishment.

Your Excellency the President,

Distinguished Guests,

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia confirms its keenness to cooperate closely with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to develop all components of its national nuclear energy program and appreciates the Agency's critical role in this regard. Additionally, the Kingdom has approved the national legislation related to the nuclear regulatory requirements, by setting the IAEA's standards for nuclear safety and security as a minimum requirement. Furthermore, the Kingdom

has worked with the Agency to identify the areas of national priority for development in which nuclear technologies and sciences can be utilized to address various development issues and meet the national development requirements.

Your Excellency the President,

Distinguished Guests,

I conclude with a call from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the international community to cooperate positively in the development of nuclear technology. Moreover, the Kingdom also reiterates its support for the Agency in achieving its goal to harness the atom to serve humanity, and commends the Agency's active participation in the United Nations conference on climate change at its twenty-sixth session (COP26) in 2021. The Kingdom also looks forward to the Agency's participation in the next session of the (COP27) conference scheduled next month, in Sharm El-Sheikh, in the Arab Republic of Egypt, to showcase the important role of nuclear energy and its applications in facing climate change.

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