

**International Atomic Energy Agency Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power in the
21st Century**

Washington DC

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Statement by the United Arab Emirates

Delivered by H.E. Mohamed Al Hammadi

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Madam. President, Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

My delegation is pleased to participate here today in Washington DC, and we express our appreciation to the Government of the United States of America for hosting this important conference, and to the US Department of Energy and other key government institutions that have been instrumental in delivering this event.

I would also like to express our gratitude to the Director General of the IAEA, Mr. Rafael Mariano Grossi, for his strong leadership at this critical time, and his dedication to pursuing the mission of the Agency. Additional thanks to the IEA and NEA for their partnership and support in convening this conference.

Madam President,

Back in 2017, Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates, hosted the last Ministerial Conference. At that time, we were in the construction and commissioning phase of the development of the Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant.

With the support of the IAEA and experts from around the world, I am proud that at this latest Ministerial Conference, the UAE now has three operating reactors, and a fourth reactor in the final stages of commissioning.

It is testament to the power of collaboration, our steadfast commitment to upholding the UAE policy on civilian nuclear energy, and our stringent program management that we are now accelerating both the UAE's national energy security and its energy sustainability.

Through Barakah, we are rapidly decarbonizing the UAE's electricity sector, with the plant now the single largest source of clean electricity in the nation.

We are also creating high-value careers for bright UAE Nationals and have one of the highest participation levels of female employees, as part of our commitment to supporting the brightest Emirati women in joining the UAE's growing nuclear sector.

We are proud of our delivery of the plant in line with all national laws and regulations, and in full alignment with our 2008 policy commitments for nuclear safety, security, transparency and non-proliferation.

The UAE has received valuable support from the IAEA over the past years, highlighting the pathway to developing our nuclear infrastructure and the human capabilities required for a safe, secure and successful nuclear energy programme. We also benefitted from the many

peer review missions including the recent Pre-OSART follow-up mission, which was very successful, and aligned with our commitment to continuous improvement.

In 2017, there were over 440 reactors operating in over 30 countries. Today, two more countries, including the UAE, have started generating clean electricity, with dozens of reactors under construction globally. In the past year, we have witnessed many nations recognizing the fundamental role nuclear energy will play in achieving Net Zero.

The cooperation framework developed by the IAEA offers a crucial platform for strengthening safety and development of required capabilities and we are committed to offering our support.

Indeed, the IAEA has revised its forecasts upwards on new nuclear units, and, Madam President, we stand ready to share our experience and knowledge with responsible nations around the world looking to commence their nuclear programs, or add to their existing fleets.

Communication and active public engagement have been essential tools to drive the UAE's transparent approach. UAE national stakeholders have continued to champion nuclear energy and its benefits, which has contributed significantly the positive public perception of nuclear energy in the UAE. We will continue to pursue our community engagement program, and in sharing our approach with newcomer nations looking to engage their communities and promote the unique benefits that nuclear energy can offer the world in resolving the challenges of energy security and energy sustainability.

And as we look to the future, the United Arab Emirates is committed to using nuclear energy to materialize our national developmental needs in a peaceful and sustainable manner. As we work to bring the 4th unit online and deliver 25% of the nation's electricity and meet 25% of the UAE's Nationally Determined Contributions, we now focus on realizing the full value of the UAE Peaceful Nuclear Energy Program.

We are studying opportunities for clean hydrogen generation, advanced nuclear technologies including SMRs, and R&D to enhance security, reliability and longevity of our units. We are also working to share our expertise across non-power generating areas, including agriculture and medicine, both areas that will be key to supporting sustainable development globally. The clean electricity we generate today, as well as our plans to further decarbonize the power sector in the future, are all key components of the UAE's Net Zero 2050 strategy.

In conclusion I thank again Director General Grossi and the IAEA for the tremendous support the Agency has been providing to the UAE and other member states. My country looks forward to continue working with the IAEA and the international community towards promoting the responsible use of nuclear energy.

Finally, we look forward to working with the IAEA in promoting the Atoms For Climate initiative at COP 28, which will be hosted in Dubai, UAE in 2023, as we work to promote the essential role of nuclear energy.

I thank you, Madam. President, and wish everyone a successful conference.