

The statement of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

**At the 68th Session of the General Conference of the
International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**

Delivered by

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Your Excellency the President of the General Conference,

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

Your Excellencies and Highnesses,

First of all, I would like to congratulate His Excellency the Ambassador on assuming the presidency of the 68th session of the General Conference, wishing him/her success in leading the work of this conference. The convening of this Conference emphasizes the vital role of the IAEA' in fostering international cooperation towards harnessing the atom energy for development and global peace. I am confident that our cooperation will achieve the desired results of this conference.

Your Excellency the President

I would like to convey the Kingdom's appreciation for the commendable efforts undertaken by the Agency, led by its Director General Mr. Rafael Grossi, in enhancing its technical capabilities and launching outstanding initiatives, which strengthens its role in providing technical support to member states in order to build their programs and develop human capacity in nuclear technology and its regulatory fields.

Given the importance of nuclear energy in social and economic development, the Kingdom is moving towards utilizing nuclear energy and its radiation applications for peaceful purposes, and it continues to implement its national nuclear energy project with all its components, including the construction of the first nuclear power plant in the Kingdom to contribute to the national energy mix and to achieve the sustainable national development in accordance

to the national requirements and within the framework of the international commitments.

Therefore, the Kingdom has completed the essential administrative preparations related to nuclear regulatory framework and the requirements for implementing to the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and has submitted a request to the Agency in July of 2024 to rescind the Small Quantities Protocol and implement the full Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement. We are currently working with the Agency to finalize all necessary subsidiary arrangements for the Small Quantities Protocol to be effectively rescinded by the end of December of this year (2024). In this regard, the Kingdom continues to stand by its legally binding international commitments related to its national nuclear energy project. The Kingdom's national legislation and institutional infrastructure satisfy all requirements for controlling nuclear materials and technology, as well as regulating exports, consistent with its obligations and fulfilling its important role under the international non-proliferation regime. I would like here to extend my thanks to the Director General and the Deputy Director for Safeguards for their efforts that have enabled the Kingdom to reach this stage.

Your Excellency the President

In line with the Kingdom's focus on preparedness to nuclear and radiological emergencies and strengthen the capacity to response to them, and recognizing the Agency's pivotal role in this crucial and sensitive area, the Kingdom has decided to host an international conference on nuclear emergencies, which will be organized by the Agency, at the end of 2025 in Riyadh, and the Kingdom is looking forward to the cooperation of states in ensuring the success of this conference, which will contribute significantly to enhancing the global

response to nuclear and radiological emergencies. This effort builds on the Agency's and its International Emergency Center's work.

It should be mentioned here the Kingdom participation in strengthening the radiological monitoring and early warning capabilities for nuclear incidents at this international center by providing the opportunity to benefit from its national capabilities in the global system of radiological monitoring and early warning. The Kingdom is also pleased to offer its capabilities to the Agency and the International Emergency Center in other areas, including predicting the environmental impacts of nuclear and radiological incidents.

Your Excellency the President

As part of developing the Kingdom's efforts in the cooperation with the Agency, the Kingdom deposited, on the seventh of August 2024, its instrument for acceptance of the IAEA's Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities. The Kingdom is committed to several international instruments related to nuclear fields, including those concerning nuclear security, safety, and safeguards. The Kingdom is also collaborating with the Agency to host a workshop on the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, which will invite states non-party to the Convention to enhance global efforts towards the universality of this Convention.

Your Excellency the President

The Kingdom has benefited from the IAEA's Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) mission, which completed its task in October 2023. This mission has played an effective role in assessing the the national nuclear regulatory efforts and the overall integration of national nuclear regulatory

framework. The mission also commended the Kingdom's commitment to radiation safety standards and noted the progress in the regulatory nuclear and radiological framework and the commitment to continuously developing practices according to the highest international standards. I thank here the Director General and the Agency for these distinguished services, which practically affirm the vital and significant role of the Agency.

Your Excellency the President

The Kingdom emphasizes the importance of the nuclear security and safety system and that the responsibility for maintaining this system within any country rests entirely with the state in accordance with its national requirements and international obligations. In this context, we are pleased to see the fruitful results of the initiative to establish the Agency's International Nuclear Security Training Center in Seibersdorf, to which the Kingdom was the main contributor to its establishment and funding, and its tangible impact in enhancing the national capacities of member states and the global nuclear security system.

Your Excellency, and distinguished guests thank you for listening and I hope the work of this conference will be crowned with success.