



**Statement by the United Arab Emirates
Delivered by H.E. Ambassador Hamad Alkaabi
Permanent Representative of the UAE to the IAEA**

**to the 68th IAEA General Conference
(September 2024)**

Mr. President,

On behalf of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), I would like to extend my congratulations to you on your assumption of the presidency of this General Conference. I also take this opportunity to commend the Director General of the IAEA, Mr. Rafael Mariano Grossi, for his leadership and continued dedication to advancing the critical work of the International Atomic Energy Agency. I take this opportunity to welcome new Member States of the Agency

Mr. President,

This year marks a significant milestone for the UAE as we proudly announce the commercial operation of Unit 4 of the Barakah Nuclear Power Plant.

With this achievement, all four units of the Barakah Nuclear Power Plant are now operational, positioning the UAE as the first in the region to operate a multi-unit nuclear power plant.

The completion and operation of all four units now deliver up to 25% of the UAE's electricity demand through clean, reliable, and carbon-free nuclear energy. The Barakah Nuclear Power Plant is a core pillar of the UAE's commitment to diversifying its energy mix and achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

This success reflects our dedication to peaceful nuclear energy development and the UAE's contribution to global climate action. It further demonstrates the importance of international cooperation and adherence to the highest standards of nuclear safety, security, and non-proliferation, which have been central to our program's development.

As the world faces the challenges of climate change, nuclear energy is increasingly recognized as a vital component of the global transition to net-zero emissions. The UAE is committed to showcasing the role of nuclear energy in mitigating the impacts of climate change and achieving sustainable development goals. Therefore, the UAE presided the '*Second International Conference on Climate Change and the Role of*

Nuclear Power 2023 in October 2023 and also hosted the 28th *Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28)* in November-December 2023. We appreciate the IAEA participation in the joint session on 'Climate Change Challenges to the Safety of Nuclear Installations' during COP28. I would also like to note that on the eve of the COP28, the Emirates Nuclear Energy Company (ENEC) announced the launch of the ENEC ADVANCE Program, which aims to harness the latest advancements in nuclear energy technologies. The programme is provisioned to strengthen the UAE's position as a leading nation in delivering climate action by accelerating the global clean energy transition to Net Zero. The programme will evaluate the latest technologies in the advanced, Small Modular Reactor (SMR) and microreactor categories, which can generate clean electrons and molecules, such as steam, hydrogen and ammonia, as well as process heat for industrial processes.

Mr President,

The UAE commends the IAEA for its unwavering commitment to supporting its Member States in utilizing nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, as well as for its critical initiatives such as Atoms4Food, Rays of Hope, and NUTEC Plastics. These initiatives showcase the Agency's focus on leveraging nuclear technologies to address global challenges like food security, cancer treatment, and environmental protection.

We also note with appreciation the IAEA's Technical Cooperation Programme, which remains a critical tool for building capacity, sharing knowledge, and enhancing the peaceful application of nuclear energy in various sectors.

In line with our commitment to nuclear safety, the UAE remains an active participant in the IAEA work dedicated to the cause.

In 2023, the UAE actively participated in the *International Conference on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, Decommissioning, Environmental Protection and Remediation*.

The same year, the UAE also received an IAEA Expert Mission 'Enhancing UAE's radiation protection safety infrastructure in the field of biodosimetry', hosted an IAEA workshop on 'Strengthening Regulatory Oversight of Safety Culture' and the IAEA School on Nuclear and Radiological Leadership.

The UAE continuously demonstrates its focus on nuclear safety and as part of such efforts, the UAE hosted a national IAEA workshop on the Review of Ageing Management in Limited Scope Periodic Safety Review in 2024.

In January 2024, the IAEA officially registered UAE capabilities under its Response and Assistance Network (RANET), availing a list of UAE-registered capabilities to the IAEA Member States for use in case of emergencies.

The UAE also emphasizes the importance of nuclear security and actively participated in the 4th Edition of the *International Conference on Nuclear Security*

(ICONS): Shaping the Future, where it presented its new regulatory requirements for physical protection of nuclear material, nuclear facilities and for cyber security. We are proud of our contributions to regional and global efforts to enhance nuclear security measures and commend the IAEA for its pivotal role in addressing emerging nuclear security challenges.

Mr. President,

The UAE remains fully committed to the IAEA's safeguards system, which being strengthened with the Additional Protocol, forms the bedrock of global nuclear non-proliferation regime. We continue complying fully with our safeguards obligations and received a "broader conclusion" from the IAEA for the second time this year. The UAE views the Agency's safeguards as essential tools in fostering international trust and ensuring the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Therefore, the UAE and the IAEA established a new Member State Support Programme (MSSP) in 2023, which continues into 2024, to aid the IAEA's nuclear verification mission. The UAE also hosted a regional workshop on IAEA safeguards in 2024.

We encourage the universalization of the NPT and urge all States to bring their nuclear program under the IAEA safeguards. We call on the States with outstanding safeguards issues to fulfill their obligations and spare no efforts in building confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of their nuclear programme. This is critical for maintaining the credibility and effectiveness of the global non-proliferation regime.

Mr. President,

The UAE remains committed to the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction (WMD). This objective is central to the peace, security, and stability in the region. We believe that achieving such a zone would significantly enhance regional and global security and reduce the risks of nuclear proliferation. We welcome the IAEA's continued support for efforts that contribute to nuclear non-proliferation in the region.

In conclusion,

Mr. President, the UAE remains committed to maintaining its strong and enduring partnership with the IAEA. As we celebrate the commercial operation of the Barakah Nuclear Power Plant and look ahead to achieving further milestones, we are confident that the IAEA will be able to continue providing the necessary technical support to its Member States.

Thank you Mr. President.