

**UAE Statement before the general debate of the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to
the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

Delivered by H.E. Dr. Sultan Al Jaber

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Madam President,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honor of delivering the statement of the United Arab Emirates to this conference.

I would like at the outset to congratulate you, Ambassador Taous Feroukhi, on your election to the presidency of the Review Conference of the States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. I am confident that your able leadership and diplomatic skills will contribute to the success of this conference, and will contribute to achievement of positive results.

I would also like to associate my delegation with the statements made by the Non-Aligned Movement, the Arab Group and the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative.

Before proceeding further, I should like to extend our deepest sympathy and heartfelt condolences to the Government and people of Nepal for the tragic loss of life and damage that have resulted from the recent earthquake.

Madam President,

There is no doubt that the NPT (Treaty on the Non-proliferation of nuclear weapons) is one of the most important international treaties that have contributed, since its inception 45 years ago, to international peace and security. The NPT has laid the foundation for an international system for cooperation and the transfer of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

The United Arab Emirates attaches utmost importance to the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, and this stems from our commitment to ensuring global security. Therefore, the Government of the United Arab Emirates has continuously supported the international community's efforts to limit the spread of nuclear weapons, and to strengthen the Treaty.

Peaceful Uses

Madam President,

The peaceful use of nuclear energy is an inevitable right for all states. UAE supports benefiting from this right in a transparent manner based on the highest standards of safety,

security and non-proliferation. UAE fully and successfully complies with these standards in developing its own peaceful nuclear energy program - a program that enjoys wide international support and confidence.

UAE began construction of its first nuclear reactor in 2012. This event marked the first construction in a new programme in more than 27 years. Today, we consider this peaceful program a role model on how non-nuclear countries can utilize the international framework of cooperation, as provided for by the Treaty. Consequently, this leads us to re-emphasize the importance of strengthening international cooperation framework to facilitate the transfer of nuclear technology for peaceful uses, and to assist countries wishing to embark on peaceful nuclear energy programs in a responsible and safe manner.

In support for this objective, the role of the 'International Atomic Energy Agency' should be strengthened in assisting and providing technical support to States. We welcome international efforts in promoting nuclear security, such as those emanating from the series of Nuclear Security Summits, and efforts to strengthen nuclear safety, especially in the aftermath of Fukushima Daiichi accident in Japan.

The UAE further welcomes steps aimed at strengthening the international framework for nuclear liability, the latest of which was the entry into force of the "Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage".

Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Madam President,

The UAE acknowledges the rights and responsibilities as outlined in the Treaty, and recognizes the special circumstances surrounding the use of nuclear materials. Consequently, we stress the importance that any peaceful nuclear energy program is developed in a responsible and transparent manner, which adheres to comprehensive safeguards in full compliance with the IAEA, ensuring full verification. UAE underlines that it is important for countries developing nuclear energy programs to take all necessary steps to ensure confidence and to address all concerns of the international community regarding the peaceful nature of their nuclear programs.

There are many examples of challenges to nuclear non-proliferation, including the inability of the IAEA to fully verify the peaceful nature of some countries' nuclear programs. A closer look at these challenges calls for the development of measures to strengthen the objectives of nuclear non-proliferation. Among these measures is the adoption of the Additional Protocol to the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement, an important instrument that constitutes an essential tool to enhance the Agency's ability to fully verify the peaceful nature of nuclear programs.

All these challenges calls for strengthening the terms of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The withdrawal from the treaty clause is an example where the treaty should be strengthened to ensure that it is not misused as a tool for the development of clandestine nuclear weapons programs.

Nuclear Disarmament

Madam President,

With regards to the issue of nuclear disarmament, UAE considers that the total elimination of these weapons, as clearly called for by the Treaty, is the only way to guarantee their non-use, including the threat of use. UAE welcomes the steps taken by the United States and the Russian Federation to reduce their nuclear weapons, and acknowledges the importance of adopting transparent measures to verify nuclear weapons disarmament. We hope that the NPT Review results in positive outcomes and stipulates practical steps towards disarmament, while noting that the lack of progress in these commitments is a source of great concern to non-nuclear states. In this context, the UAE supports discussions on the grave humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons.

Middle East

Madam President,

Achieving a world free of nuclear weapons requires serious efforts by the international community towards the universalization of the NPT.

In this context, the UAE renews its persistent call for States non-party to join the Treaty promptly. Especially regarding the Middle East, UAE reiterates its call for Israel to join the NPT as a non-nuclear weapon state and place all its nuclear facilities under the IAEA's comprehensive safeguards.

Madam President,

This point leads me to point to some of the challenges associated with establishing, in the Middle East, a Zone free from nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

In 2010, the parties to the treaty agreed that the Depository States of the Treaty would hold a conference in 2012, in cooperation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to discuss the establishment of the Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. The UAE expresses appreciation to the efforts of the facilitator, Ambassador Laajava. UAE supported the work of the facilitator and participated in all relevant consultations. However, my delegation expresses disappointment at the failure of convening the conference at the agreed time. This constitutes a step backwards in this important process.

UAE believes that the realization of the obligations of establishing a nuclear weapons free zone in the Middle East, is a priority to achieve practical progress, and a proof of the effectiveness of the Treaty. In this context, we call on the Review Conference to adopt serious steps to ensure the convening of the long due conference on the Middle East nuclear zone , at an early stage, and with the participation of all countries in the region.

Finally,

Madam President,

The success of achieving the Treaty's objectives lies in the full implementation of all its provisions. Therefore, all the key principles should be maintained and strengthened without exception. This is what we hope this conference will achieve.

Thank you,