

Statement of the UAE to the IAEA International Conference on Nuclear Security

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Delivered by

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Mr. President, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, let me express thanks to the IAEA for convening this important conference. I would also like to express gratitude for the president of the conference, Foreign Minister Martonyi for his efforts presiding this conference.

The UAE is developing a nuclear energy program under the government nuclear policy framework issued in 2008, which highlighted the government's strategies and commitments in the development of the nuclear energy program. Commitment to the highest standards of nuclear security is one of the main principles outlined in the Government policy. Strengthening nuclear security is a priority in light of the expansion of the use of nuclear and radioactive materials globally, and taking into consideration the increased threat of nuclear terrorism. The risk of malicious acts using nuclear or radioactive materials remains high and serious threat.

It is the responsibility of the states to ensure that all effective measure are in place to ensure nuclear security. UAE has taken multiple advanced steps to develop the required infrastructure to achieve such objective. We advanced the national legal and organizational framework for export and import control through introduction of a new legislation in 2007, which was further strengthened in 2008. In 2009, UAE established a new regulatory authority responsible for nuclear safety, security and safeguards. The nuclear law of 2009 introduced strong measures and requirements on physical protection of nuclear materials and radioactive sources. Two detailed regulations was subsequently issued; one on physical protection for nuclear materials and nuclear facilities, and the second on the security of radioactive sources based on the IAEA recommendations as outlined in INFCIRC/255/Rev.5 and in consistent with 3S approach applied by the UAE regulatory framework ensuring synergy between nuclear safety, security and safeguards.

The UAE domestic nuclear security framework has been developed in conformity with international nuclear security instruments. The UAE has signed and became party to all

nuclear security related international instruments including the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, and has accepted its Amendment.

The IAEA role in nuclear security is paramount, it provides assistance to member states to ensure the full implementation of the relevant conventions and the adequacy of the measures in place. It further provides a venue for international cooperation in this area such as the convening of this important conference. UAE has requested multiple IAEA peer-review services including IAEA Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) in 2011, and Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review (INIR) mission, which concluded that the development of the UAE's nuclear infrastructure, including nuclear security, is progressing well and in line with the IAEA's guidelines. UAE has signed an integrated nuclear security support plan (INSSP) with the IAEA providing a framework for IAEA assistance to the UAE in the area of nuclear security.

UAE reiterates its stance on the importance of international nuclear cooperation and sharing of experience. We continue to work with our international partners in the area of nuclear security. UAE is a member of the nuclear security summit process from the outset. In October this year, UAE will host the IAEA international conference on the safety and security of radioactive sources. The conference will focus on strategies and techniques for maintaining continuous control over radioactive sources throughout their life cycle. Other activities include several workshops organized in the UAE with the World Institute for Nuclear Security (WINS). UAE also participates at the IAEA Illicit Trafficking Database (ITDB).

Mr. President,

Nuclear security is a fundamental part of the global security framework. As evidenced by its support for a number of non-proliferation and security initiatives, and international instruments aimed at limiting the spread of nuclear weapons, the UAE considers non-proliferation to be of the highest importance. In support of this policy and in order to reflect its strong belief that the security of the nation, its neighbors and the world will best be protected by avoiding the spread of nuclear weapons and the technology to acquire them, the UAE Government has repeatedly and assertively stated that it is against the existence of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. International nuclear security framework should be strengthening through the implementation of nuclear disarmament obligations and strengthening of nuclear security and non-proliferation. UAE will continue to work towards this objective.

Thank you Mr. President.