

**Statement of the United Arab Emirates**

**INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY**

**55<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL CONFERENCE**

**H.E. Ambassador Hamad Alkaabi**

**Permanent Representative of the UAE to the IAEA**

Mr. President,

Allow me at the outset to congratulate you on your assumption of the Presidency of the 55<sup>th</sup> Session of the IAEA General Conference. I would also like to extend my thanks and appreciation to Director General Mr. Yukiya Amano for his commendable leadership in his second year.

UAE welcomes the Commonwealth of Dominica, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Kingdom of Tonga as new Members to the IAEA.

Mr. President,

I would like to express my sympathy, solidarity and support for Japan over the devastating natural disaster that took place on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2011, resulting in the Fukushima nuclear accident. My country admirably recognizes the efforts made by Japan to mitigate the consequences of this accident.

In light of this unfortunate event, the United Arab Emirates places utmost emphasis on nuclear safety and security as we take stern and progressive steps towards realizing a peaceful nuclear energy programme.

Mr. President,

The IAEA, since its establishment, has played a vital role in achieving its goals in helping the Member States to benefit from the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. In 2008, the UAE has embarked on a prudent nuclear energy programme to meet the growing domestic demand for electricity. My country is of the view that peaceful nuclear energy would contribute significantly to the future energy mix in the UAE and globally. Therefore, UAE has committed itself to using peaceful nuclear energy in abidance with the highest standards of safety and security, and has adopted a detailed policy in 2008 for the development of a peaceful nuclear energy programme. The national policy endorses principles of complete

transparency, a commitment to the highest standards of non-proliferation and full cooperation with the IAEA as fundamental principles by which all nuclear activities and programmes should be governed.

In December 2009, UAE through the Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation (ENEC) awarded a contract to a Korean consortium, , to design, construct and jointly operate the UAE's first four nuclear power reactors. The first reactor is on schedule to begin commercial operation in 2017. As nuclear safety is considered a priority in the UAE approach, a great deal of emphasis is being put on evaluating the lessons learnt resulting from the Fukushima accident. Through a Safety Review Task Force, the operator (ENEC) cooperates with the Regulatory body (Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation (FANR), in addition to the IAEA, in order to implement any essential standards based on these lessons.

In recent events, UAE has completed the selection of a preferred site for construction of the first nuclear power plant, application for site selection has been filed at the regulator.

Mr. President,

The UAE continues to work closely with the IAEA and with international partners in implementing a successful and sustainable peaceful nuclear energy programme. Thus, I would like to highlight several advances made in the past year pertaining to our nuclear programme.

In January of this year, the IAEA concluded an Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review (INIR) mission to the UAE, whose outcome was very positive and no major gaps were identified. In the IAEA's words, (and I quote) "the mission found that the country understands the long-term commitments and responsibilities of nuclear power and is implementing its programme in line with the IAEA 'Milestones' approach".

As the UAE is one of the early adaptors of the IAEA integrated guidance for the development of new nuclear energy programmes, we have accumulated experience in implementing this approach as well as working with IAEA through meetings and consultations.

While presenting our first National Report to the Fifth Review Meeting of the Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS) in April of this year, where our work on developing the nuclear safety infrastructure was praised . Similarly, the UAE intends to present its first national report in the near future under the Joint Conventions of Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management for the CNS in May 2012.

This December, UAE will receive its first IAEA Integrated Regulatory Review Service Mission (IRRS). It is the first time that this IRRS Mission is held at such an early stage in a country embarking on a nuclear programme. I take pride in highlighting this fact, which marks significant progress towards developing the UAE as a model for nuclear new-comers in a transparent and response manner.

In light of this, UAE through its newly established nuclear regulator, has already issued 11 new regulations for the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear applications, and launched a successful licensing process and a thorough inspections programme.

In addition, let me highlight UAE's commitment to ensuring nuclear security. UAE is an active participant in Nuclear security Summits and has engaged on many levels in the preparations for the Seoul Summit next year. In a country with significant oil, construction and medical industries, the issue of security of radioactive sources is a key element and takes primary focus in our work. In two months, UAE and the World Institute of Nuclear Security (WINS) will jointly host expert workshops in the UAE on this topic.

Mr. President,

The UAE further recognizes the central role of the IAEA, given its technical nature and wide membership, in strengthening the global nuclear safety regime and in providing expertise and advice, and calls for an enhanced role of the Agency. In this regard, UAE welcomes the efforts of the Director General and the timely response of the Agency to the Fukushima Daiichi accident. UAE congratulates DG Amano on convening a successful Ministerial Conference in Vienna in June 2011 to draw on the lessons learnt from the accident served to strengthen nuclear safety globally. We view joint work and efforts under the framework of the Agency to strengthen safety measures as vital endeavors for the long-term sustainability of the global nuclear industry.

UAE fully welcomes the outcome of the Conference, and follow up Action Plan on Nuclear Safety, which highlights major areas of focus that would ensure the implementation of the highest standards of nuclear safety . Most importantly, the Plan provides a mechanism for continuous improvements through multiple and parallel actions. UAE realizes that ensuring nuclear safety is fundamental to the use of nuclear energy. Therefore, we recognize the Action Plan on Nuclear Safety as beneficial and comprehensive, and we are pleased to note its consistency with the approach by which the UAE is developing its nuclear programme.

My delegation is pleased to note that the Action Plan includes means to improve the effectiveness of the related international legal framework. I would like to highlight the importance of the Convention on Nuclear Safety, as the the only legally binding instrument, and its significance as an international norm for countries with nuclear facilities. We call on countries with nuclear facilities that have not done so, to adhere to the Convention at an early date.

Mr. President,

The UAE appreciates the important role that the IAEA plays in facilitating the implementation of effective programmes aimed at improving the scientific and technological capabilities of Member States. My country strongly supports the Technical Cooperation Programme under the IAEA, which allows many countries including the UAE to benefit from the Agency's technical expertise in the areas of nuclear energy, nuclear security,

nuclear safety, among other nuclear applications in different fields.. I would like to emphasize here UAE's continues on-time fulfillment of its financial obligations towards TC contribution Fund

. My country consistently benefits and cooperates with the IAEA through national and regional workshops, trainings and expert meetings. UAE also contribute to the work of the IAEA by providing experts and sharing its experience.in developing its nuclear programme.

We would like to reiterate the high priority that the UAE places on the development of Human Resources Capacity and the country's active involvement and contribution to that purpose. The UAE appreciates strategies for sustainable education and training on nuclear, radiation, transport and waste management, as well as the safety and security of radioactive sources.

### **Safeguards and Additional Protocol**

Mr. President,

'UAE puts great emphasis on the IAEA safeguards as credible mean to assure that nuclear material and facilities are being used exclusively for peaceful purposes. Challenges to the safeguards system should be addressed in concrete fashion to enable the IAEA to provide credible assurance not only concerning declared nuclear material in a state but also to detect undeclared material and activities.

To this end, the Additional Protocol complements the safeguards system with better tools to provide assurance on both declared and possible undeclared activities. In order maintain the credibility of the IAEA's safeguards system, we believe it is essential for Member States to with significant nuclear activities to bring into force the Additional Protocol. Accordingly, UAE, in order to meet this objective, has brought into force an Additional Protocol in December 2010. We are convinced that for any State with a comprehensive safeguards agreement in force, the implementation of Additional Protocol would enhance the verification standard of that State. We are pleased to note that 110 countries have brought an Additional Protocol into force, and we hope to see more countries in the near future with an objective to enable the Agency to meet its safeguards responsibilities and consequently build further confidence within the international community . Thus, we support Director General Amano's efforts to further promote the adherence to the Additional Protocol.

### **Mr President**

My Delegation welcomes the Director General's effort to consult with States of the Middle East to facilitate early application of a full-scope Agency safeguards to all nuclear activities in the region. UAE is furthermore committed to support all efforts and attempts that could facilitate the establishment of a Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zone in the Middle East.

Accordingly, UAE welcomes IAEA's initiative to convene a forum to study and learn lessons of other regions regarding the establishment of NWFZs. WE are optimistic that such forum should contribute to the discussion leading to the 2012 conference,As agreed at t 2010 NPT review confrence, and to the establishment of a NWFZ in the Middle East.

UAE believes that it is necessary that all states of the region commit themselves to positively contribute to all efforts leading to the estanlishment of a NWFZ.

UAE is of the view that all states of the region should commit themselves to the NPT as well as the Agency's Fullscope Safeguards in order to provide the required security and stability in the region of the Middle East. In this context , we call on Israel to join the NPT and subject all its nuclear facilities to the Agency's full scope safeguards.

Mr. President,

To conclude, I would like to reiterate the value that the UAE places on its close collaboration with the Agency and our support in regards to ensure the development of IAEA capabilities to meet its mandate. Our country looks forward to continuing its work with the IAEA to ensure the development of a transparent and secure nuclear energy programme. We offer our full collaboration with the Agency, as it takes on the central role in promoting international cooperation and numerous international efforts to strengthen and promote global nuclear safety , security and non-proliferation.