



Monthly Newsletter



The panel of NPDI group members including the UAE at the 2012 NPT Preparatory Committee meeting, Vienna, Austria

Issue: May 2012

Highlights of the month (May 2012):

- 2012 NPT PrepCom: Global fight against spread of atomic weapons
- NPT Side events:
 - Implementation of the safeguards agreement
 - NPDI outreach
- UAE presents its progress on safety of spent fuel & radioactive waste management
- FANR signs a cooperative arrangement with French Regulator
- Exclusive visit to the OL3 construction site in Finland
- UAE accedes the Nuclear Liability conventions

2012 NPT PrepCom: Global Fight against the Spread of Atomic Weapons

The First Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) met from 30 April to 11 May 2012 at the IAEA Headquarters in Vienna, Austria.

This year, the PrepCom provided a forum for substantive exchange of views on all aspects of the NPT, including disarmament, nonproliferation, and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

During the two-week deliberations Parties to the Treaty has discussed the actions that many nations have taken to follow up on the 2010 NPT Review Conference, to implement the 2010 NPT Action Plan, and to establish priorities for the 2015 Review Conference.

Along with more than 100 nations, the UAE contributed through the general debate of at Preparatory Committee sessions and through joint-submission of various working papers relating various aspects of nuclear disarmament, nonproliferation, and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Further, the UAE delegation was actively engaged in several outreach activities and side events.

The UAE delegation was led by Ambassador Hamad Alkaabi, Permanent Representative to the IAEA, and comprised officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and relevant Government entities.

Jointly with member states of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI) the UAE contributed to four working papers on disarmament transparency, Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT) as well as on the implementation of the Additional Protocol which were submitted jointly by the NPDI group to the NPT PrepCom.

In conjunction with members of Arab League, the UAE also submitted another three working papers addressing disarmament, peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East. In this regard, the UAE highlighted the importance of the establishment of the Middle East Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (NWFZ) to assure global peace and security.

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"The establishment of the nuclear-weapon- free zone in the Middle East is a long due and important step for NPT regime. The UAE appreciates the efforts being made for a successful 2012 conference". "Progress on the establishment of such a zone in the Middle East will demonstrate the effectiveness of the Treaty to achieve its objectives", said Ambassador Alkaabi in his key general debate statement.

Side event: Assistance for Safeguards implementation

Ambassador Hamad Alkaabi joined a panel organized by the U.S. Mission to International Organizations in Vienna for the NPT PrepCom participants on 8 May 2012.

The panel discussions addressed the technical cooperation and assistance available to NPT Parties in implementing IAEA safeguards agreements, including Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement (CSA), and Additional Protocols (APs).

The side event was moderated by U.S. Ambassador Susan Burk along with the panel, comprising Ambassador Alkaabi, UAE Permanent Representative to the IAEA; Mr. Taisuke Mibae, Department for Nonproliferation and Disarmament of Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Mr. Jinho Chung, Korea Institute of Nuclear Non-proliferation and Control; Mr. Matthew Van Sickle, U.S. Department of Energy; and Mr. Andreas Persbo, VERTIC expert on verification research, training and data centre.

The panel of high-level international experts provided a brief overview of their cooperative activities, including training, technical and regulatory assistance, and other areas of cooperation.



Ambassador Alkaabi during a panel discussion on safeguards agreements and Additional Protocol at NPT side event

This session of the NPT PrepCom was the first of three to be held prior to the 2015 Review Conference. The next session will take place in Geneva 22 April - 3 May 2013.

Full text of the UAE can be found at http://www.un.org/disarmament/WMD/Nuclear/NPT2015/PrepCom2012/statements/20120502/UAEEmirates_EN.pdf

Addressing the implementation of the CSA and Additional Protocol agreements, Ambassador Alkaabi shared the UAE's practices in bringing its international commitments into force and implementing the agreements' requirements into National practice. Ambassador also highlighted the key role of the IAEA assistance to the UAE Government in establishing a national nuclear infrastructure and developing legal framework.

He also shared challenges facing nuclear new comers and the lessons learned in addressing such challenges.

Side event: NPDI Outreach

In course of the NPT side events, the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands hosted the panel of Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI) group to raise awareness about the initiative and its working papers among the NPT delegates, NGO representatives, and other participants of the PrepCom.

During the panel discussion, Ambassador Alkaabi of the UAE talked about importance of Additional Protocol as well as on different strategies to promote its universality.

Other panellists included representatives of the NPDI Member States: Australia, Canada, Chile, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Poland, and Turkey.

The NPDI, a cross-regional group of 10 states submitted four working papers to this year's PrepCom, transparency in nuclear disarmaments, on the Fissile Material Cut-off-Treaty (FMCT), the ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) as well as the for the promotion of the Additional Protocol. Full text of the working papers can be found online at <http://www.un.org/disarmament/WMD/Nuclear/NPT2015/PrepCom2012/documents.html>

Questions from participants of the side event followed after the panel discussion.

The NPDI was founded in June 2011 to promote and support implementation of the commitments made by all NPT Member States in the Action plan of 2010 NPT Review Conference , and advocate further progress through practical contributions and proposals.

The UAE acceded to the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in 1995.



UAE Presents its report on the Safety of Spent Fuel and Radioactive Waste Management

The *Forth Review Meeting of the Joint Convention on Safety of Spent Fuel Management and Safety of Radioactive Waste Management* was held in Vienna from 14 to 23 May 2012.

Sixty-three Contracting Parties participated in the Review Meeting and assessed national reports on compliance with the obligations of the Joint Convention.

The UAE delegation was headed by Ambassador Hamad Alkaabi, Permanent Representative to the IAEA, and presented by Senior UAE officials including Dr. William Travers, Director General of the Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation (FANR).



The UAE presents its First National Report on Safety of Spent Fuel and Radioactive Waste Management to the Fourth Review Meeting of the Joint Convention

The aim of the Convention is to achieve and maintain a high level of safety standards in facilities for the disposal of spent fuel from nuclear power plants and radioactive waste. Also, it pursues the establishment and maintenance for long term measure to safeguard against potential hazards with radiological impact in such disposal facilities.

In order to fulfill these goals, the UAE presented its first national report to the Review Meeting and answered questions asked by other Parties.

The UAE received forty-one questions from participating parties mostly focusing on UAE plans and long term strategies. Moreover, the Parties showed interest in UAE's strategy on orphan sources and management of disused sealed sources.

UAE's systematic approach to develop national nuclear waste strategy is noted as "exemplary" by the other Parties and Rapporteurs of the Review Meeting.

There are currently 60 Parties to the Convention. United Arab Emirates has been a Party since 2009.



Dr. William Travers, Director General of the Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation (FANR) presents UAE's regulatory framework to the Review Meeting of Joint Convention



FANR Signs Cooperation Arrangement with French Nuclear Regulator

The Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation (FANR) and the French Nuclear Safety Authority (ASN) signed an Agreement recently to exchange technical information and cooperation with regards to the regulation of nuclear safety and radiation protection.

This Agreement was signed by Ambassador Hamad Al Kaabi, the UAE Permanent Representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and member of FANR Board of Management, and Mr Andre-Claude Lacoste, ASN Chairman, in the presence of senior officials from both organisations.

Both parties agreed to cooperate to exchange experts and technical regulatory information related to radiation protection and the safety of nuclear facilities and activities in accordance

with the laws in their countries, in addition to the regulations and policy directives as set forth by the said authorities.

This Agreement highlights the extensive collaboration between FANR and international organisations to achieve the goals of the UAE's Policy on the peaceful uses of Nuclear Energy to enter into partnerships with governments and firms of responsible nations.



Ambassador Alkaabi and Mr Andre-Claude Lacoste, ASN Chairman signing the cooperation arrangement

Exclusive visit to Olkiuoto 3 Nuclear plant under construction in Finland

A group of Ambassadors to the IAEA visited EPR nuclear reactor construction site of Olkiuoto 3 in Finland on May 28, 2012.

The one day trip co-organized by French Ambassador H.E. Mrs Florence Mangin, and Aréva Group, for selected Ambassadors of the UAE, South Africa, Czech Republic, Malaysia, China, Japan, Jordan, Brazil, Russia, and Hungary.



Assembly of invited Ambassadors inside of the OL3 nuclear plant



The delegations at the OL3 nuclear reactor construction site

The Finland's Olkiuoto 3 (OL3) is the first French EPR advanced reactor to be constructed and it is Northern Europe's largest ever industrial project led by AREVA NP. The trip was an opportunity to witness progress made in the construction and understand the challenges facing the project. Two other EPRs reactors are under construction now in China and in France.



The **Protocol to Amend the 1963 Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage** was adopted by a Diplomatic Conference, 8-12 September 1997, and was opened for signature at Vienna on 29 September 1997 at the 41st General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The amended IAEA Vienna Convention sets the possible limit of the operator's liability at not less than 300 million SDRs (about EUR 360 million) and entered into force in 2003.

The **Joint Protocol on the Application of the Vienna Convention and the Paris Convention** was adopted by the Conference jointly convened by the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development at the Headquarters of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, on 21 September 1988. The purpose of this Joint Protocol is to establish a link between the Vienna Convention and the Paris Convention by mutually extending the benefit of the special regime of civil liability for nuclear damage set forth under each convention. It also seeks to eliminate conflicts arising from the simultaneous application of both to a nuclear incident.

UAE deposits instruments of accession to the 1997 Protocol to Amend the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability



Ambassador AlKaabi handing over the instruments of accession to the Vienna Convention and the Joint Protocol to Ms. Peri Lynne Johnson of the IAEA, Vienna, 29 May 2012

The UAE deposited instruments for joining the *Protocol to Amend the 1963 Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage* and the *Joint Protocol on the Application of the Vienna and Paris Conventions* at the IAEA Headquarters in Vienna, Austria, 29 May 2012.

Letters of accession to the conventions signed by HH Sheikh Abdulla Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the UAE Foreign Minister, were deposited at the IAEA by Ambassador AlKaabi, UAE Permanent Representative to the IAEA, during a meeting with Ms. Peri Johnson, Director of the IAEA Office of Legal Affairs.

By joining these conventions, the UAE meets its policy commitments and further demonstrates its responsible approach in developing peaceful nuclear energy programme.

The international liability regime defines a framework for organizing responsibly and mechanism for compensation for damage after a nuclear accident.

The updated Protocol contains inter alia a better definition of nuclear damage (addressing the concept of environmental damage and preventive measures in addition to previously defined nuclear damage such as loss of life), and extends the period during which claims may be brought for loss of life and personal injury.

The Joint Protocol established a link between the Conventions combining them into one expanded liability regime. Parties to the Joint Protocol are treated as though they were Parties to both Conventions.