



International Atomic Energy Agency

General Conference 57<sup>th</sup> Session

**Statement by the United Arab Emirates**

**Delivered by H.E. Ambassador Hamad Alkaabi**

**UAE Permanent Representative to the IAEA**

**Mr. President,**

Your Excellency's, Ladies and Gentlemen ,,

Allow me at the outset to congratulate you on your assumption of the Presidency of the 57th Session of the IAEA General Conference. I would like to express my delegation's confidence in your ability in leading this conference and achieve its desired outcome. I would also like to extend my gratitude to the Director General Mr. Yukiya Amano for his commendable leadership as Director General, and to congratulate him for being appointed for the second term, wishing him all the best for continuation of this important assignment.

My delegation welcomes the new members of the IAEA , Brunei Darussalam and the commonwealth of the Bahamas and look forward to working with them

**Mr. President,**

UAE has taken significant steps in the development of its nuclear power programme and the related infrastructure, following the IAEA guidance and international best practices. The construction of the first nuclear reactor in the UAE began in July 2012 following a detailed evaluation of the design , which took into consideration early lessons learned from Fukushima Daiichi accident . The UAE is the first country to start the construction of its first nuclear power plant in 27 years . The national nuclear energy porgrame is progressing well , with the start of construction of the 2nd unit in May of this year.

**Mr. President,**

It has been more than two years since the accident of Fukushima Daiichi took place. Looking at the global picture of nuclear sector today, and despites the challenges, nuclear energy continues to play a significant and increasing role in the global energy sector.

Fukushima highlighted the need to strengthen nuclear safety worldwide.. UAE, as a policy principle, is committed to adopt current and future lessons learned in its reactors design as part of its commitment to the highest standards of nuclear safety.

UAE has recognized the primary role of the Agency in strengthening the global nuclear safety. We welcome all efforts made by the Director General in response to Fukushima and the implementation of the IAEA nuclear safety plan; which the UAE is fully committed to .

IAEA Peer-review missions are critical to ensure the adequacy of safety measures and relevant national infrastructure. The UAE continued to request and receive comprehensive reviews from the IAEA. We encourage member states to benefit from such services.

Similarly, International conventions in the area of nuclear safety provide opportunities for exchange of experience and peer reviews with an objective to ensure and strengthen safety measures in nuclear facilities. UAE is an active state-party in the review process of the Convention of Nuclear Safety (CNS) and to the efforts aiming at strengthening its implementation. I take this opportunity to call on countries with nuclear facilities, who has not done so , to join and implement the Nuclear Safety Convention at an early date.

**Mr. President ,**

Since embarking on its peaceful nuclear energy programme, the IAEA has been an important and vital partner in the development of the UAE peaceful nuclear energy programme.

UAE appreciates all Agency's efforts in supporting UAE needs through its different programs and services. This cooperation framework with the IAEA has enabled the UAE to meet national goals in various areas of nuclear application and nuclear power , and to share its experience with other Member States as well.

UAE has recently signed an Integrated Work Plan - IWP 2013-2017, which defines a holistic framework of cooperation with all departments of IAEA . UAE continues to support IAEA work through hosting a number of activities , and through contributions including by providing experts and consultants to several committees, working groups and expert missions. UAE is also offering fellowships and scientific visits through the IAEA technical cooperation programme to other member states in some areas.

UAE appreciated the visit by IAEA Director General, H.E. Mr. Yukiya Amano to the UAE in January this year. The visit highlighted mutual interests, as well as the on-going strong cooperation between the Agency and the UAE.

**Mr. President,**

UAE recognizes the importance of establishing a nuclear liability regime that complies with the major international instruments governing the area of nuclear liability. In October 2012, the UAE issued a Federal Law No.4 of 2012 Concerning Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage, as a result of continued work in establishing an adequate legal framework for its nuclear liability regime. This

Law was drafted in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage as amended by the 1997 Protocol, which the UAE acceded to in August 2012. Efforts to harmonize civil liability regimes for nuclear damage should continue and we encourage states who have not done so to join and implement multilateral conventions based on the principles of Vienna Convention on civil nuclear liability. We welcome in this regard the joint statement by France and US on nuclear liability.

**Mr. President,**

UAE strongly endorses the role and IAEA's efforts in Nuclear Security. We are of the view that that the Agency has an important role to play in strengthening international framework and training opportunities in the nuclear security field. The UAE signed with the IAEA an Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan (INSSP) in September last year and planning to request an IPASS mission in the near future. The UAE will be hosting the IAEA International Conference on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources in Abu Dhabi in October of this year

**Mr President,**

UAE is of the view that nuclear energy can only be pursued through a responsible and transparent approach. We believe that the IAEA safeguards system should be capable provide credible and effective assurances that nuclear material and facilities are being used exclusively for peaceful purposes. The Additional Protocol complements the safeguards system with better tools to provide assurance on both declared and possible undeclared activities or facilities. We welcome the increased number of countries with additional protocols in force which reached now totals of 121 states .

On the safeguards implementation , UAE has a long standing position that that all countries should fully implement their safeguards obligations, and other relevant international obligations.

We call on countries, in which their safeguards implementation is in question, to fully cooperate with the IAEA to address all outstanding concerns and to restore confidence in the exclusive peaceful nature of their programmes.

**Mr. President,**

My delegation welcomes the director general efforts in consultation with the countries of the region to facilitate the early implementation of the comprehensive safeguards in the Middle East on all nuclear activities. We are disappointed in lack of progress made towards the establishment of a nuclear weapon free zone in the Middle East including the failure to convene a conference in 2012 as stated in the 2010 NPT Review outcome document.

#### **In conclusion**

My delegation would like to reiterate the UAE's commitment to working with the Agency towards the strengthening nuclear safety, security and safeguards globally, while promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy. We thank the Secretariat for the comprehensive reports made available to Member States in relation to these matters, and reassure you Mr. President of the full cooperation of my delegation

Thank You.