

UAE Statement

NPT PrepCom 2012 – Vienna

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Mr. Chairman,

I would like at the outset to congratulate you on your appointment as the chair of the first preparatory committee for the NPT 2015 review conference. I am confident that your leadership and diplomatic skills will facilitate a positive outcome of this meeting. I assure you the full support of my delegation.

I would like to associate my delegation with the statements read on behalf of NPDI countries, the statement read on behalf of NAM, and the statement read on behalf of the Arab group . Additionally I would like to provide the following statement:

Mr chairman,

The UAE has always been committed to ensuring global security and the reduction of threats posed by nuclear weapons. This was demonstrated by the UAE's decision to join the NPT in 1995. Following this was the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in 2000 and the conclusion of the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement in 2003 and bringing in force the Additional Protocol in 2010.

The United Arab Emirates, has adopted a detailed policy on the development of a peaceful nuclear energy programme, which highlighted the UAE's commitments related to the use of nuclear energy. The policy endorsed principles of complete transparency, the commitment to the highest standards of safety, security, non-proliferation and full cooperation with the IAEA as fundamental principles by which all nuclear activities and programmes should be governed.

UAE views the NPT framework as a crucial and fundamental part of not only the non-proliferation regime but general global security. Additionally, it is a crucial framework to facilitate the right to develop peaceful nuclear technology in a responsible manner.

However, despite the positive outcome of this important treaty, there are some serious challenges to the NPT regime today. Generally, these are the lack of concrete steps toward disarmament; the existence of states outside the treaty; issues of non-compliance; and continued nuclear proliferation threats.

These challenges call for measures to strengthen the treaty and hence the prepcom and review process should focus on these challenges.

On the non-proliferation challenges, and due to unique circumstances surrounding the use of nuclear material, the NPT grants rights and obligations for every member of the treaty. We support the development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy as a right of every state party to the treaty. Yet this right comes with substantial responsibilities.

States that are developing nuclear energy for peaceful uses should adhere to comprehensive safeguards measures; fully cooperate with the IAEA; and take required steps to fully address all international concerns and obligations including those of relevant IAEA and UNSC resolutions. Full compliance with safeguards obligations are absolutely crucial.

Additionally, the added confidence provided by safeguards when reinforced by an Additional Protocol, will facilitate the full support and confidence of the international community and at the same time ensures the credibility of IAEA safeguards system

Similarly , States with nuclear experience should facilitate and assist non-nuclear states in developing peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Assistance can be in form of provision of technical expertise as well as to facilitate the transfer of peaceful nuclear technology and materials to developing countries ; including developing more practical arrangements to export of such materials and technology.

The IAEA has a central and crucial role to play in assisting countries to develop nuclear energy in a safe and secure manner, and hence the IAEA role and mandate should be strengthened in this area. UAE welcomes the establishment of the IAEA fuel bank , and encourages further steps to establish multilateral mechanisms to ensure provisions of fuel supply and services including the front end and the back end of the fuel cycle.

Mr Chairman

Today, the UAE government is taking further tangible steps to support the implementation of the action plan adopted in 2010 NPT review conference. These steps include the development of an innovative model for adopting peaceful nuclear energy to meet the growing domestic energy demand while maintaining the commitments to highest standards of safety, security and non proliferation. Additionally, UAE along with 9 other countries established the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative –the NPDI , aimed at facilitating the implementation of the action plan agreed in 2010 . The NPDI group has made many contributions already for this purpose , including multiple working papers submitted to this preparatory committee meeting.

When it comes to verification, my delegation would like to emphasize the importance of the CTBT's entry into force. The CTBT is an important tool for building mutual trust and confidence, which is needed to reduce the threat posed by nuclear weapons. UAE is also actively promoting its entry-into-force and implementation at the national, regional and global levels through our diplomatic efforts.

The NPT has recognized the relationship between nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament. Implementing measures agreed upon in the area of disarmament will strengthen non-proliferation efforts and the NPT framework in general. Moreover, the UAE shares the view that the only way to ensure the non-use or non-threat to use nuclear weapons is the total elimination of those weapons.

The establishment the nuclear-weapons-free zone in the Middle East is a long due and important step for the NPT regime. Accordingly, the UAE appreciates the efforts being made to convene the 2012 conference on the establishment of such a zone. Progress on the establishment of a nuclear-weapons-free zone in the middle east and the success of 2012 conference will demonstrate the effectiveness of the treaty to achieve its objectives.

The review process comes with a lot of challenges , but given the importance of the NPT framework in ensuring global peace and security , the UAE hopes that the delegations will work together constructively to achieve a positive progress.