



**Statement of the United Arab Emirates
before the general debate of the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties
to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
Delivered by H.E. Hamad Alkaabi
Permanent Representative of the UAE to the IAEA
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Mr. President ,

I would like at the outset to congratulate you, Ambassador Gustavo Zlauvinen, on your election to the presidency of the 10th Review Conference of the States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. I am confident that your able leadership and diplomatic skills will contribute to the success of this conference, and will ensure that we achieve a positive outcome. The UAE aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the NPT countries, NAM, and the Arab Group.

Mr. President,

We gather here today to exercise effective multilateralism and seek common ground to uphold the NPT, which is the cornerstone of the nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation regime. The NPT remains an essential foundation for the pursuit of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and a key element for the maintenance of international peace and security .

The pursuit of peaceful uses of nuclear energy is the right of all states. However, this right comes with responsibilities. It has to be pursued in a responsible and transparent manner while meeting safety, security, and non-proliferation requirements.

The UAE's peaceful nuclear energy program has been developed in line with the highest international standards and best practices, and in close cooperation with the IAEA and our international partners. I am pleased to report today that three nuclear power reactors are operational in my country supplying clean and sustainable energy. The success of the UAE's peaceful nuclear energy program is a testament to the NPT and its valuable international cooperation framework facilitating the transfer and development of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.



The International Atomic Energy Agency is at the center of this international nuclear cooperation framework. Its role and capabilities should be strengthened in order to more effectively provide assistance and technical support to member states.

International instruments in the area of nuclear safety, security, non-proliferation, and nuclear liability are important. Member states with operational nuclear facilities, such as Iran, that have yet to join the Convention on Nuclear Safety should join the convention and subscribe to its obligations. Global adherence to safety conventions would help build confidence and strengthen nuclear safety globally.

We are concerned with the situation in Ukraine. The reported violent actions at nuclear facilities in Ukraine pose a serious threat to the safety and security of these facilities, to their personnel, to millions of civilians, and to the environment. The international community must make every possible effort to avoid a nuclear disaster, whether from a direct attack on a nuclear facility or as an unintended consequence of conflict. We must ensure that nuclear plants and related facilities are not a target and remain protected from conflict. We welcome the efforts by the IAEA's Director General towards this end.

Mr. President,

The UAE recognizes the importance of the IAEA's safeguards complemented by the additional protocol in ensuring the exclusive peaceful nature of countries' nuclear programs. In this context, we continue to be concerned by the lack of progress in addressing outstanding questions related to safeguards in Iran and further advancement in Iran's sensitive nuclear activities. Such advancements have no real civilian purpose and remain a source of concern for my delegation. Iran's full and timely cooperation with the IAEA is essential to address global and regional concerns and to restore confidence. The UAE continues to support diplomacy and dialogue towards this end.

Mr. President,

On the issue of nuclear disarmament, the UAE believes that the total elimination of nuclear weapons, as clearly called for by the Treaty, is the only way to guarantee that they are neither used nor threatened to be used. We support all genuine efforts towards nuclear risk reduction, pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons .



The UAE is committed to enforcing the nuclear test ban regime, and, as such, urges all states that have yet to ratify the CTBT to do so without delay, particularly the remaining states listed in annex 2. The CTBT entry into force is an important element of the global nuclear disarmament regime.

The DPRK's nuclear and missile programs continue to undermine the global non-proliferation regime and threaten regional and international security. We call on the DPRK to respect its international obligations and to refrain from actions that could escalate tensions in the region and beyond.

On the Middle East, the UN General Assembly for years has annually adopted resolutions calling for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. Numerous Security Council and IAEA resolutions over decades have called for progress on this issue, which is long overdue. The way forward requires practical steps, and further efforts and assurances from the depository states who have special responsibility as co-sponsors of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East.

In conclusion, Mr. President, the NPT's effectiveness in achieving its objective relies on the full implementation by its state parties. We continue to call on NPT universal adherence and renew our call for States that are not parties to join the treaty promptly . We encourage all States Parties to work towards a successful conclusion and a substantial outcome of this Review Conference .

I thank you.