



The UN Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons
and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction

Statement by the United Arab Emirates

Delivered by H.E. Ambassador Hamad Alkaabi

UAE Permanent Representative to the IAEA

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Madam President,

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At the outset, allow me to congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency for the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction. I assure you of my delegation full support and cooperation towards achieving a successful meeting.

Madam President,

The UAE remains committed to the continued efforts to achieve and maintain a world free of threat posed by nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction and encourages all steps towards strengthening global peace and security.

The United Arab Emirates is a member in a good standing in all the relevant nonproliferation treaties, including the NPT and its full scope safeguards and the additional protocol system, Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) as well as Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC).

My Government has recognized that the right to develop and use of peaceful nuclear technology comes with high responsibility and obligations, this includes full commitment to non-proliferation and the fulfillment of the IAEA safeguards. We are convinced that the implementation and the full compliance to the IAEA Safeguards supplemented by the additional protocol is a necessary step to adequately face nuclear proliferation challenges and shall enhance regional confidence in nuclear activities.



Madam President,

The idea of nuclear-weapon-free zone (NWFZ) in the Middle East is not new, UN general assembly resolution adopted in 1974 called for the establishment of such a zone. In 1990, the proposal was expanded to include all forms of weapons of mass destruction. In 1995, the NPT review and extension conference adopted a resolution on the Middle East calling for practical steps aiming at making progress on the establishment of the zone, the resolution was cosponsored by the three NPT depository states, United States, Russian Federation and the United Kingdom. Furthermore, the 2010 NPT review conference agreed to hold a conference in 2012 to be attended by all states of the middle east on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other WMD. The conference regrettably did not take place and no concrete progress has been achieved towards this end.

Indeed, as we deal with the various regional issues in the region, we should use this meeting as an opportunity to start building a new regional understanding towards this goal. The UAE considers the establishment of a Middle East nuclear weapons and other WMD free zone as a priority and long overdue goal. Successful steps towards the establishment such zone shall indeed help building confidence and contribute positively to regional and international security

It is, therefore, necessary that all states of the region commit themselves to this process. This should include the political commitment and the active constructive participation of all states of the region as well as the 1995 resolution cosponsors states.



No doubt, the establishment of such zone would require fundamental obligations from all states of the region including but not limited to, renouncing the development of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction including biological and chemical weapons and related activities. States of the region are expected to join and reiterate their commitments to international treaties and conventions related to the subject of the WMD free zone. Furthermore, compliance with internationally recognized verification system such as the IAEA full scope safeguards is essential.

The adherence to internationally recognized WMD related treaties and their verification mechanism is not only a goal in itself but also a means to build trust and therefore form an environment that contributes to the final objective to create a Zone free of Weapons of Mass Destruction in the Middle East.

Madam President,

We believe there is an opportunity for a positive change in the region of the Middle East. Unlocking this kind of regional and international change will require political will, creative diplomacy and true leadership.

The UAE stands ready to contribute to this positive change with a vision to build a new regional environment that will provide security for all people and all nations;

We hope this conference convened under the auspices of the UN for the first time, will be able to contribute to this understanding and would help to complement past efforts in making progress towards the establishment of the zone.

I thank you Madam President.