Statement by

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On

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Mr. President,

At the outset, and on behalf of the United Arab Emirates, it is my pleasure to extend to you my sincerest congratulations on your election as the chairman of this committee, which plays a vital and important role in strengthening the international security through the efforts and endeavors of the United Nations. We are confident that your diversified expertise in the issues of disarmament will effectively contribute to converging the points of view on issues concerning disarmament and international security enforcement. On this occasion, I would like to wish you and all members of your office success. Also, I would like to thank your predecessor, for his management of the previous session of the committee, and also to thank the Secretary –General Assistant for Disarmament Affairs and his office for their valuable efforts in enhancing international cooperation in the areas of disarmament and stability of international peace and security.

Mr. President,

Two years had elapsed since the millennium summit declaration was issued when the heads of states and governments pledged to work together for creating a peaceful, secure and prosperous world. However, after one year of this declaration, the world woke up on the terrorist attacks on the United States of America on 11 September 2001, which claimed more than 3,000 lives of Americans and other nationals of other countries. After such violent events, the world realized two important facts: firstly, the possible volume of destruction and death that could take place if weapons of mass destruction
or nuclear weapons were applied in such attacks. Secondly: there is a weapon, which is more destructive than any other weapon; it is the feelings of resentment, hatred and anger that lay concealed behind all types of conflicts and wars. The world became more convinced that the work of the United Nations for peace and disarmament has become more important and pressing than any time before. The current regional and non-regional conflicts, and the increasing violence in several regions of the world urges us to renew our commitment to enhance the role of the international law, including, disarmament conventions and treaties, limitation of weapons and the elimination of the roots of conflicts.

Mr. President,

In spite of the progress achieved by the United Nations in peacekeeping in some areas of conflicts in the world, there still is more work to be done by the organization for maintaining regional and international peace and security. There are millions of people in various parts of the world who live in danger since long time due to the occupation of their territories by foreign forces, or as a result of extreme poverty or ethnic conflicts and civil wars. It is unfortunate that no progress has been achieved in solving the problems of millions of those people, which obstructs the efforts aimed to establish international peace and security. The global increase in arms expenses compared to the deterioration of expenditures on economy development programs of developing and poor countries is a source of great concerns; it is one of the leading causes for armed conflicts. The reports about arms and weapons indicate that the volume of global military
expenditure for the past year has amounted to US$ 839 billions, surpassing the previous year by US $ 39 billions. Reports also outlined the growing increase in arms trafficking, out of which a great portion is directed to the developing countries, which is an indicator of the of the fear and insecurity such countries live under. Out of fear of expected attacks, or of threat of aggressive power, such countries resort to piling and building up weapons, instead of fulfilling the economic and humanitarian needs of their communities. This is in addition to the declared and undeclared armament race which is taking place in the fields of possession, transfer, production and storage of fissionable nuclear materials, weapons of mass destruction, and conventional weapons, which poses a direct threat to the international peace and security, and destroys all efforts exerted by the United Nations and the concerned bodies for achieving progress in the areas of disarmament and limitation of production and spread of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

Mr. President,

From its position of rejecting the principal of resorting to armament race and piling arms as a deterrent policy, the United Arab Emirates urges the international community to develop a comprehensive international strategy towards accomplishing regional and international security. This strategy must be founded on the principles of the international law and the resolutions and conventions of the United Nations, which are based on the principles of equality and respect of countries’ sovereignty. We look with optimism towards the agreement reached by the group of the eight countries on establishing an international partnership working against the spread of weapons and materials of mass destruction, and supporting specific co-operation projects for addressing
questions such as the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-ban, Comprehensive Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, disarmament, combating terrorism and nuclear safety. We call upon state members in the United Nations to endorse disarmament conventions, in particular, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty so it becomes enforceable after accession of the required number of state members, and to endorse the prohibition of chemical weapons convention. In the same time, we call for developing a global and unconditional instrument, to ensure security guarantees for countries that do not possess nuclear weapons or weapons of mass destruction. We also call for establishing specialized mechanisms derived from the disarmament conference to follow up on the efforts to implement a gradual destruction of such weapons within a specific timeframe in accordance with article 6 of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

In this context, we would like to affirm the necessity of compounding our efforts to address all issues related to missiles in all aspects. Since missiles are used as means of conveyance of weapons of mass destruction, the limitation of missiles is considered one of the fundamental elements of peace maintenance, and requires enacting a globally acceptable instrument to address all the aspects of concerns related to missiles.

Mr. President,

The United Arab Emirates welcomes Iraq’s acceptance of the return of the United Nations weapons' inspectors; it represents Iraq’s commitment to the United Nations’ resolutions and affirms the sovereignty of the international law, which strengthens security and peace in the region. We look forward to an international joint co-operation for supporting and
backing the Iraqi step in order to save the region from the unknown consequences of a third war and resolve the Iraqi issue through peaceful means without of military action.

Mr. President,

The region of the Middle East is considered one of the most dangerous spot of tension in the world due to the suppression and military terrorism exercised by an occupying state, which uses a superior military arsenal, in quality and quantity, of conventional and non-conventional weapons. In this context, the United Arab Emirates affirms that peace and security cannot be attained in the region as long as Israel — the occupying state — possesses nuclear weapons. Therefore, we call upon the international community, and in particular, the great influential countries to exert pressure on Israel to compel it to accede, unconditionally, to the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty as it is the only country in the region, which has not yet acceded to this treaty, and to urge Israel to abstain from producing nuclear weapons and subject all its nuclear facilities to the safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency in accordance with the international legitimate resolutions, and the resolutions of the sixth conference for revision of the treaty held in year 2000 and, in particular, the resolutions which are related to the Middle East region, in order to establish a zone free from nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East region, as applicable in the other regions of the world. We also demand Israel to refrain from the use of proscribed and non-conventional weapons against the Palestinian citizens in the occupied territories, which resulted in the killing of many civilians and deformation and handicapping of dozens of individuals including children and women, which is a violation of international laws and human
norms, and will lead to creating human tragedies as well as economic and social problems on the long term.

Mr. President,

While, the United Arab Emirates believes that means of dialogue and political solutions are the best methods in resolving disputes and differences, it observes with concern the escalating tension between India and Pakistan and calls upon the two countries to pursue wisdom and assume their responsibilities towards the region security, and to settle their existing differences through dialogue and peaceful means in order to maintain the regional security and international peace.

Mr. President,

The United Arab Emirates has always supported the international efforts aiming towards preserving peace and prevention of armed conflicts in the areas of disputes and tension in many regions of the world. My country has participated in a number of peacekeeping operations in the areas of disputes in the world and has provided relief aid in various forms. It has also participated in the efforts of rebuilding of national institutions that were destroyed by war, and in operations of de-mining, as is the case with the occupied Palestinian territories, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Kosovo and Somalia. We stress the importance of working hard on finding out the political, economic, human and social causes that lead to conflicts, and call for working, within the frame work of the international partnership, and regional partnerships, to uproot such causes, and create the appropriate political and economic
circumstances to prevent such conflicts and accomplish security and peace in the areas of disputes and tension.

The joint partnership and commitment of the international community, especially great and advanced countries, to the implementation of the principals of the Charter of the United Nations, and the international resolutions calling for liberation of people from occupation and for their right to freedom and self determination, as well as provision of suitable living conditions which allow a fair degree of human dignity, and the implementation of development programs and economic aid to poor and less developing countries, in accordance with the international agreements and conventions, is the guarantee towards achieving the international peace and security which the Charter of the United Nations calls for, and the goals which this international organization was founded to fulfill.

Thank you Mr. President.