Mr. Chairman,

It is an honour for me to deliver my first statement as the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations, and would like to seize this opportunity to express my sincere congratulations to you on your election as Chairman of the First Committee for the 68th session of the General Assembly. I am confident of your ability to guide the work of this Committee successfully, and I can assure you of my delegation’s full cooperation. I also wish to thank your predecessor, the Permanent Representative of Indonesia, for his good efforts, and would like to confirm my country’s support for the statements of the Non-aligned Movement and the League of Arab States regarding the agenda items of this Committee.

Mr. Chairman,

- The UAE pursues a steady national policy and has a clear position on the issues of disarmament and non-proliferation, based on its firm belief in the importance of accession and full implementation of all international conventions concluded in this regard. Therefore, the UAE has acceded to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in 1995, ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBD) in 2000, and signed a comprehensive safeguards agreement in 2003. The UAE has also ratified the additional protocol in 2010, and has recently signed the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).

- The UAE expresses its concern about the lack of progress made by the international community in areas of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, which could undermine international peace and security efforts.
results despite its establishment many years ago, which would require finding solutions for this obstacle, especially beginning the negotiations’ process for establishing a fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT).

Mr. Chairman,

- The UAE is deeply concerned by the nuclear test conducted by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea earlier this year, which constitutes a clear threat to regional and international peace and security, and is another indication of the importance of the entry into force of the CTBT. Therefore, we call upon the states of Annex (II) to sign and ratify this treaty in order to ensure its entry into force as soon as possible.

Mr. Chairman,

- The UAE attaches special importance to the Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) as the cornerstone of non-proliferation regime and nuclear disarmament, and to the comprehensive safeguards regime of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), particularly the Additional Protocol, which is a key tool to verify the non-proliferation regime and provides reliable assurances that all nuclear materials and facilities are used for peaceful purposes. In this context, I would like to refer to my country’s firm position which emphasizes that all States must fully implement their obligations relating to the safeguards regime and any other relevant international commitments. In this regard, my delegation expresses its continued concern about the challenges facing the non-proliferation regime, especially the inability of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to fully verify the peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear activities, and calls upon Iran to resolve all outstanding issues with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), in order to restore confidence in the peaceful nature of its nuclear program and exclude any possible military objectives.

Mr. Chairman,

- With regard to the Middle East, we express our disappointment for not convening the 2012 Conference as indicated in the final document of the 2010 Review Conference of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, and we call upon the organizers to convene it as soon as possible, in order to maintain the credibility of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. We also call upon Israel, the only State in the region that has not yet acceded to the Treaty, to join the NPT, and we also urge all States of the region to work constructively towards achieving the objective of the establishment of the Middle East as a region free of nuclear weapons.

- The UAE supports international efforts aiming at strengthening nuclear security, especially in light of the escalating threats of nuclear terrorism, and welcomes the outcome of the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Security held recently at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). I also would like to point out the continued engagement of the UAE in these international efforts, particularly through its participation in the Nuclear Security summits held
(IAEA). I also would like to point out the continued engagement of the UAE in these international efforts, particularly through its participation in the Nuclear Security summits held in Washington, 2010, and Seoul 2012, and would like to mention the UAE’s hosting of the IAEA International Conference on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, which will be held in Abu Dhabi this month.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize the importance and the need for the international community to promptly reach consensus on developing the work of this Committee in order to ensure the enhancement of regional and international peace and security.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.