First Session of the Preparatory Committee  
for the 2020 Review Conference of the Non-Proliferation Treaty  
Vienna, May 2-12, 2017  
General Debate  

UAE statement  
Delivered by H.E. Ambassador Hamad ALKAABI  
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Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your assumption of the chairmanship of the first Preparatory Committee for the 2020 NPT review conference. I assure you of my delegation’s full support and cooperation.

My delegation associates itself with the statements delivered by the NPDI, the statement read on behalf of NAM, and the statement read on behalf of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

Mr. President,

My delegation believes that it’s very important to enter this review cycle in a positive spirit following the failure of the 2015 Review Conference to agree on an outcome.

UAE has always been committed to support efforts towards the reduction of the threat posed by nuclear weapons and to ensuring global peace and security.

UAE views the NPT as a cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime and the foundation for the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in a responsible manner, and based on the highest standards of safety, security and non-proliferation.

UAE complies fully with its international obligations and adopt high standards in developing its own peaceful nuclear energy program - a program that enjoys wide international support and confidence. Today, we consider this peaceful program a role model showcasing how non-nuclear countries can utilize the international framework of cooperation, as provided for by the Treaty.

This leads us to re-emphasize the importance of strengthening international cooperation framework to facilitate the transfer of nuclear
technology for peaceful purposes, and to assist countries wishing to embark on peaceful nuclear energy programs in a responsible and safe manner.

In support for this objective, the role of the IAEA should be strengthened to assist and provide support to Member States.

Mr. President,

To face present challenges to the non-proliferation regime, we recognize the need to call for measures to strengthen the NPT and to achieve progress across all three pillars of the treaty.

We support the development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy as a right of every state party to the NPT. Nuclear programs should be developed in a responsible and transparent manner, which adhere to comprehensive safeguards measures; in full compliance with IAEA standards; ensuring full verification; and taking all necessary steps to address international concerns.

In this regard, UAE has welcomed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) concluded with IRAN, with the hope it will reflect positively on Iran’s behavior in the region. Full and transparent implementation of the JCPOA is essential to build confidence and credibility in Iran’s nuclear activities.

Mr President,

UAE supports steps taken in developing measures to strengthen the objective of nuclear non-proliferation. Among these measures is the Additional Protocol to the Comprehensive Safeguard Agreement; an important instrument that supports and complements the IAEA safeguards system.

Mr. Chairman,

With regards to the issue of nuclear disarmament, UAE acknowledges the importance of adopting transparent measures to verify nuclear weapons disarmament. UAE considers that the total elimination of nuclear weapons, as clearly called for by the treaty, is the only way to ensure the non-use or no-threat of use of nuclear weapons.
In this context, UAE supports discussions on the humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons and the relevant discussions to ban nuclear weapons. The pursuit and achievement of these shared goals, and the strengthening of the NPT regime, benefit all NPT members, stressing the importance of common and inclusive approaches.

On Nuclear test ban, my delegation would like to reaffirm our strong commitment to strengthening nuclear test ban regime, including the entry into force of the CTBT at the earliest date.

UAE has strongly condemned North Korea’s continued development and testing of its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs. These activities undermine the global non-proliferation regime, and pose a grave and increasing threat to both regional stability and international peace and security.

Mr. President,

A world free of nuclear weapons requires serious efforts by the international community towards the universalization of the NPT. In this context, UAE renews its persistent call for States non-party to join the Treaty promptly. Specifically in the Middle East, UAE reiterates its call for Israel to join the NPT as a non-nuclear weapon state and place all its nuclear facilities under the IAEA’s comprehensive safeguards.

UAE believes that the realization of the obligations of establishing a nuclear weapons free zone in the Middle East is a priority to achieve practical progress, and a proof of the effectiveness of the Treaty. We hope this review cycle to witness serious steps to implement the agreed action plan of 2010 and to ensure the convening of the long due conference on the Middle East nuclear weapons free zone, at an early stage, and with the participation of all countries in the region.

Finally,
Mr. President,

Given the importance of the NPT framework in ensuring global peace and security, I assure you that the UAE will engage with states parties constructively to achieve a positive progress.

Thank you.