

STATEMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA
AT
THE SIXTY-SIX SESSION OF THE GENERAL
CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC
ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)

By

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COMMISSION

VIENNA – AUSTRIA

(26 -30 SEPTEMBER 2022)

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

Your Excellency Mr. Alessandro Cortese, the President of the General Conference,

Mr. Rafael Grossi, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency,

Your Excellencies and Highnesses,

May peace, mercy and blessings of Allah be upon you.

I would like to begin by thanking Kuwait for chairing the General Conference at the 65th Session and its efforts in making it successful.

I also extend my sincere congratulations to Mr. Alessandro Cortese for chairing the session at the current Conference, wishing him success too.

I am pleased to join you today in this important international forum, which reflects the role of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in promoting international cooperation towards the goal of harnessing the atom for peace and development.

Your Excellency the President

I would like to convey the appreciation of the leadership of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the Agency's outstanding efforts and initiatives, led by Director General Mr. Rafael Grossi, in promoting the Agency's role in harnessing nuclear technology to find solutions to global challenges in a safe environment free from nuclear threats.

I would like also to thank the Director General for launching several pivotal initiatives related to nuclear technology and their regulatory aspects in Member States.

Your Excellency the President

As an extension of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's continuing support for the Agency's efforts and distinguished initiatives, and based on the absolute belief that peaceful cooperation between countries is one of the key measures towards achieving prosperity and stability in the world, the Kingdom has contributed \$2.5 million dollars towards the Agency's initiative to modernize its laboratories in Seibersdorf (ReNuAL2), which will contribute to

strengthening nuclear and radiological regulatory capabilities and provide resources and services to Member States to ensure the safe use of nuclear technology.

The Kingdom has also contributed \$1 million dollars to support the Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action (ZODIAC) to help prevent the outbreak of infectious zoonotic diseases and enhance preparedness and responsiveness to these diseases.

Your Excellency the President

The Kingdom's national policy for atomic energy emphasizes the importance of the development of peaceful uses of nuclear technology with the highest standards of transparency and reliability, and the highest levels of safety in accordance with the Kingdom's international obligations.

Within the framework of the Saudi National Atomic Energy Project, we are working in cooperation and coordination with the Agency to develop and implement national plans to facilitate the contribution of nuclear energy to the national energy mix and meet national development requirements.

For this purpose, the Kingdom, in close collaboration with the Agency, is working to build programs to develop national human capabilities in the nuclear technology sector and its regulatory aspects. As a result of these programs, national capacities have grown rapidly to meet the highest international standards.

Additionally, the Kingdom benefits from the various services and review missions provided by the Agency. This includes the great role of the Agency in developing the capabilities of Member States' response to nuclear emergencies through conducting international exercises. The most important of these is (ConvEx3) in which the Kingdom participated and from which it benefited.

Your Excellency the President

Upon the conclusion of the tenth review conference of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Kingdom emphasizes the importance of concerted international efforts to implement the provisions of the treaty and achieve its universality.

The Kingdom also emphasizes the importance of avoiding the politicization of Non-Proliferation issues and preserving the rights of Member States to benefit from peaceful nuclear technology, and

their national natural resources in accordance with the relevant international treaties and agreements.

In this regard, the Kingdom commends the role of the Director General in continuing the Agency's neutrality in dealing with Non-Proliferation issues, preserving the Agency's responsibilities in the Safeguards Agreement, especially with regards to monitoring Iran's nuclear program. It also stresses the importance of supporting the Agency and its Director General to resolve all of Iran's outstanding issues, fulfil its complete compliance with the Safeguards Agreement and provide all technically credible answers to the Agency about nuclear activities at undeclared sites.

Additionally, the Kingdom emphasizes the importance of seriously addressing Iran's nuclear activities that threaten peace and stability in the region and the world and affirm the Board of Governors' role in preserving the Non-Proliferation regime.

Your Excellency the President

I conclude by stressing that the Kingdom renews its support to the Agency to harness nuclear technology for humanity. The Kingdom

calls on the international community to cooperate actively in developing and firmly addressing all attempts of non-peaceful and unsafe uses of the nuclear technologies.

Thank you, your Excellency the President and the distinguished guests, and I hope that this conference will be crowned with success.

May peace, mercy and blessings of Allah be upon you.