



**Statement by the United Arab Emirates
Delivered by H.E. Ambassador Hamad Alkaabi
Permanent Representative of the UAE to the IAEA**

**to the 69th IAEA General Conference
(September 2025)**

Mr. President,

On behalf of the United Arab Emirates, I wish to extend my warm congratulations on your election as President of this General Conference, and to assure you of my delegation's full support for a successful session. I also commend Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi for his tireless leadership and the professionalism of the Agency's staff. We warmly welcome the new Member States that have recently joined the Agency.

Mr. President,

The UAE has made historic progress in the development of its peaceful nuclear energy programme. With the successful commercial operation of all four units at the Barakah Nuclear Power Plant, my country has become the first in the region to operate a multi-unit nuclear facility. Today, Barakah supplies up to a quarter of the UAE's electricity needs with clean, and reliable energy. This achievement is a cornerstone of our strategy to diversify our energy mix and to deliver on our Net Zero by 2050 target.

Looking ahead, the UAE is preparing for the future of nuclear innovation. We have launched programs designed to evaluate the potential of advanced reactors, including small modular reactors, to accelerate deep decarbonization and integrate advanced nuclear technologies in various sectors.

The UAE continues to host and participate in major IAEA activities, including the hosting technical meeting on nuclear security arrangements for large public events, and advanced training programmes on nuclear and radiological leadership for safety. In October 2025, the UAE will host the 8th International Symposium on the System of Radiological Protection in Abu Dhabi, with nearly 600 experts expected to attend.

The UAE attaches the highest importance to nuclear safety and security. We continue to strengthen our national frameworks in line with IAEA standards. This year, the UAE presented its Fifth National Report under the Joint Convention, where two of our initiatives were recognized as good practices including a White Paper on internal audits for nuclear regulators with Canada, and our long-term capacity-building programme. UAE continues to participate in the Commission on Safety Standards, contributing to global safety norm-setting.

The UAE hosted several IAEA expert missions, including on radionuclides in food and drinking water, and welcomed a Level 2 Knowledge Management Assist Visit. We also participated in the ConvEx-3 international emergency exercise and remain proud of having registered national capabilities under the IAEA's Response and Assistance Network (RANET).

On nuclear security, the UAE has updated its national regulatory requirements on physical protection and cybersecurity and has actively participated in the relevant IAEA meetings and conferences. We reaffirm our strong commitment to international cooperation in this vital area.

The UAE places great importance on the IAEA's Technical Cooperation Programme, which remains central to capacity-building and the peaceful application of nuclear technology. We appreciate the Agency's support through expert missions, workshops, and training activities that have strengthened our national capabilities in fields such as food safety, radiation protection, and environmental monitoring. We also commend the Agency's flagship initiatives including Atoms4Food, Rays of Hope, and NUTEC Plastics, which demonstrate the value of nuclear technology in addressing global challenges.

Mr. President

The UAE underscores the central role of the IAEA safeguards system as the foundation of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime. We are proud that, for the third consecutive year, the UAE has received the IAEA's Broader Conclusion in its Safeguards Implementation Report. This outcome reflects the robustness of our regulatory framework and our full compliance with the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and the Additional Protocol.

The UAE considers universal implementation of the CSA and AP as essential to ensuring confidence in the peaceful use of nuclear energy. We encourage all States to adopt and fully implement these instruments as the standard of verification.

To further support the Agency, the UAE has established and continue to support a Member State Support Programme (MSSP) to contribute directly to the IAEA's verification work.

At the same time, the UAE is deeply concerned by the challenges currently facing the verification mandate of the Agency. We urge Iran to fully implement its CSA and bring into force its additional protocol , and to provide the Agency with timely and comprehensive cooperation to restore international confidence in its programme.

In this context, the UAE also expresses its deep concern over attacks on nuclear facilities. Such actions endanger human health and the environment, and undermine the global framework for nuclear safety and security. We call on all parties to refrain from measures that compromise nuclear safety, nuclear security and safeguards.

The UAE reiterates its longstanding commitment to the establishment of a Middle East free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. Advancing this objective is crucial for regional peace and stability, and would provide a powerful safeguard against proliferation. We value the IAEA's continued engagement in initiatives that support non-proliferation in the region.

Mr. President, the United Arab Emirates reaffirms its unwavering commitment to a strong and enduring partnership with the IAEA. With Barakah now a cornerstone of our energy system, and with our forward-looking initiatives in advanced nuclear technology, safety, security, and safeguards, we will continue to demonstrate the peaceful and responsible use of nuclear energy. We remain confident that, through cooperation with the Agency and its Member States, nuclear energy will play a vital role in advancing peace, prosperity, and sustainable development worldwide.

Thank you, Mr. President.