

Statement by UAE

NPT RevCon 2020 - Cluster 2- General Issues

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Originations - Vienna

Madam Chairperson

My delegation congratulates you on the election as the chair of Main committee II. I assure you my delegation's full support and cooperation.

My delegation is of the view that certain issues in this pillar need to be addressed in a straightforward manner in order to bring the Review Conference to a positive outcome. I highlight the following:

1. Strengthening nuclear verification:

- In a world where nuclear proliferation is a major concern, states that are developing nuclear programmes should fall under full compliance with the verification measures of IAEA's comprehensive safeguards. The ratification of the additional protocol, an important instrument to complement IAEA Safeguards, and only with an Additional Protocol in force credible assurance over the absence of undeclared nuclear material can be provided. Therefore, it is essential to enhance the assertions provided by the safeguards agreements through utilizing the tools supplied by the additional protocol. Implementing the additional protocol as an integral part of the safeguard's regime, will provide the confidence in the exclusive peaceful nature of national programs, and facilitate the full support of the international community.
- The UAE strongly supports the universal application of the Additional Protocol as a standard IAEA verification tool. Therefore, the UAE urges all States parties that have not yet concluded an Additional Protocol, to do so as soon as possible, and to implement its provisions pending ratification.

2. Cases of non-compliance:

- It is imperative that the NPT review process addresses challenges derived from security concerns, including non-compliance issues.
- In any case of non-compliance with safeguard's obligation, member state should fully address its obligation by fully cooperating with the IAEA, and by taking all required steps to fully address international concerns and obligations including those of relevant IAEA and UNSC resolutions
- The UAE has always had the position that while it is the right for every NPT state to develop a peaceful nuclear program, this right requires full adherence to safeguards obligations. We have followed the instrumental guidance of the IAEA and international best practices and transparently showcased exemplary adherence to the highest standards of nuclear safety, security and non-proliferation
- My delegation continues to support diplomacy and dialogue to address Iran's nuclear issues, we hope ongoing diplomatic process In Vienna will contribute to reach an agreement on Iran's compliance with the nuclear-related provisions of the JCPOA and to address all outstanding issues including the longstanding IAEA questions related to the NPT Safeguards Agreement with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Concrete and satisfactory answers from Iran is needed to build confidence in the exclusive peaceful nature of its nuclear programme.

Madam Chairperson

On the Middle East nuclear weapons free zone:

- The UN General Assembly, for years has annually adopted resolutions calling for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. A good number of Security Council and IAEA resolutions over decades have called for progress on this issue, an issue that is long overdue.
- The failure of the 2015 NPT Review Conference and failure to convene the 2012 conference were a disappointment to my country and the countries of the Middle East region.
- The way forward requires practical steps, and further efforts and assurances from the depository states who have special responsibility as co-sponsors of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East

Madam Chairperson,

To conclude, the conferences need to take a clear position on supporting the IAEA in its continuing impartial conduct of nuclear safeguards and verification as

a means to strengthen the non-proliferation pillar of the NPT, and consequently, of international security and stability as a whole.