Statement by

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before

The General Debate of the First Committee on

"Disarmament and International Security"

60th Session of the United Nations' General Assembly

New York, 3 October 2005

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Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the delegation of the United Arab Emirates, it gives me great pleasure to start my statement by congratulating you on your election as chairman of this important committee. Given your valuable diplomatic skills, we are confident that you will competently lead our deliberations on pending disarmament issues, and wish you and your bureau success. I also would like to thank your predecessor for his fine management of the last session, as well as the Under-Secretary for Disarmament Affairs and his office for their valuable efforts towards developing new mechanisms for enhancing international co-operation in the areas of disarmament and international peace and security.

Mr. Chairman,

In spite of the important and valuable achievements made by the United Nations in the area of containment of conflicts and military confrontations in many regions of the world during the previous years, the ongoing armament race continues to pose a grave threat to the international stability and economic development which we all aspire to achieve in the new millennium. At the same time, the latest studies and reports, which showed that the global military expenditure has exceeded 1 trillion dollars per year, have contributed to the global fears regarding declared and undeclared activities carried out by some states for the purpose of developing or building nuclear weapons, and for allowing irresponsible parties to have access to such weapons. This requires us to primarily strengthen international cooperation in the area of disarmament in accordance with the principals of international law, the charter of the U.N., the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council, and the relevant U.N. conventions and treaties. All of which do not differentiate between states and call for enhancing the respect for sovereignty and security of states and non-intervention in their internal affairs or their legitimate right to self-defense.

Mr. Chairman,

The United Arab Emirates is disappointed with the outcome document of the high level meeting of the 60th session of the General Assembly for failing to include the commitments of states towards the disarmament of nuclear weapons which had been undertaken in the millennium summit of year 2000. This has reflected the failure of the international community at bringing its views together on the key issues of the Conference of State Parties to the NPT which was held last May, and its inability to reach a consensus on the agenda of the Disarmament Conference of Geneva. Therefore, we demand the members of this important
committee to exhibit the required flexibility and political will in order to bring our views together regarding the pending issues of disarmament.

We also affirm that attempts of some non-nuclear states to produce or acquire such weapons particularly in areas of conflict such as the Middle East, the Arabian Gulf Region and South Asia, pose a serious threat to the regional and international peace and security. They also lead to escalating tension among states and undermine measures of confidence. Therefore, the UAE, which acceded to the treaties on disarmament of weapons of mass destruction, calls for enhancing measures of confidence and stability among states, and urges those states to reconsider their position and resort to self-control and peaceful means in order to settle their regional conflicts. In this context, we emphasize the importance of the following:

1) Full compliance of nuclear states to the commitments contained in the treaties and protocols of disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons including gradual reduction of these weapons within a specific timeframe and use of these weapons for peaceful purposes as provided in Article 6 of the NPT.

2) The international community must respond to proposals calling for developing unconditional international instrument that ensures security of non-nuclear states and confirms their right to use nuclear power for peaceful purposes.

3) Re-affirming universality and inclusiveness of treaties on disarmament of weapons of mass destruction including the NPT, and demanding states which have not yet acceded to these treaties to do so as soon as possible.

4) Strengthening international efforts aimed at preventing illegal trade in these weapons. At the same time, we welcome international consensus reached recently on drafting a binding international instrument that enables states to identify and trace movement of small and light weapons at the right time. We hope that this instrument will be adopted by the General Assembly in the near future and necessary procedures are taken by all states to ensure its effective implementation as early as possible.

5) Re-emphasizing the importance of strengthening international efforts aimed at the establishment of a zone free from weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East in accordance with the resolutions issued by the Sixth Review Conference of year 2000 and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly. Meanwhile, the influential states are required to compel Israel to dismantle its nuclear facilities and subject
them to the supervision and the safeguards of the IAEA. We also call upon all states to suspend all scientific and financial assistance directed to Israel which is used in developing its nuclear facilities due to its threatening impact on the peace process in the Middle East and in order to ensure the safety and security of its peoples.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, I hope that the deliberations of this committee will lead to converging our views on how to strengthen its activities and to realize the aspirations of our peoples towards achieving security, peace and development, and maintaining regional and international stability.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman