Intervention by

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Thematic Discussion of the First Committee on

**Disarmament and International Security Agenda items (items 89 to 107)**

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Please Check Against Delivery

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset I would like to renew the UAE’s confidence in your wisdom and ability to lead the work of the First Committee, and I assure you of my delegation’s full cooperation towards the success of the Committee’s work. I also wish to confirm that the UAE associates itself with the statements made by the groups of the League of Arab States and the Non-aligned Movement on the items pertaining to nuclear weapons on this Committee’s agenda.

- My delegation welcomed the convening of a high-level meeting on nuclear disarmament by the General Assembly on 26 September 2013, and we hope that it will lead to multilateral and international consensus towards achieving our desired and common goal, which is total elimination of all nuclear weapons. In this context, we support the proposal of the Non-Aligned Movement calling for designating the 26 September of each year as World Day for Nuclear Disarmament.

- In spite of such progress on the issue of nuclear disarmament, there is still a need to maximize our international efforts to ensure the accession of all States to all international treaties on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, and place their nuclear facilities under the comprehensive safeguards regime of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), so that our desired objectives of international peace and security can be achieved.

- In this context, we renew our call for the international community to take seriously its responsibilities towards nuclear disarmament and resume negotiations on existing conferences and treaties, including the following:

  1. The Conference on Disarmament in Geneva: We express our concern about the inability of this conference to achieve any concrete results, despite its establishment many years ago, and being the
sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum. Also there is a need to begin negotiations on establishing a fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT).

2–The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT): In light of the threats posed by nuclear tests on regional and international security and peace, the UAE emphasizes the importance of the entry into force of the CTBT, and urges the states of Annex (II) to sign and ratify this treaty in order to ensure its entry into force, especially that 17 years have elapsed since it has been opened for signature.

3-The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT): In regard to the three elements of the Treaty: non-proliferation, disarmament and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, the UAE expresses its disappointment for not convening the 2012 Conference which is concerned with the establishment of the Middle East as a region free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. Chairman,

• Before speaking about the UAE efforts and endeavors to achieve regional and international peace through disarmament and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, I would like to emphasize that the international community must uphold its responsibilities towards nuclear disarmament.

• In this context, I would like to reiterate that the UAE has been committed to firm principles and clear positions towards nuclear disarmament, which were highly demonstrated in its accession to all relevant treaties (including CTBT and NPT), and its participation in the various multilateral negotiations and international forums aiming at establishing a world free of nuclear weapons.

• The UAE is also a model of transparency in the peaceful use of nuclear energy at regional and international levels, where the UAE extended its full, continuous and transparent cooperation to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as well as international partners. My country also welcomed the outcome of the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Security held recently by International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and as part of the continuous UAE efforts in this regard, I am pleased to point out that UAE will host the upcoming “IAEA International Conference on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources” in Abu Dhabi from 27 to 31 October, 2013, which will gather more than 400 participants from the Member States of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to discuss and exchange best experiences on the applicable procedures to ensure safety and security of the radioactive sources, which are now widely used in many sectors.

Thank you Mr. Chairman,