Statement by

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to the United Nations

Thematic Debate of the First Committee on Nuclear Weapons Cluster

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Mr. Chairman,

The Delegation of the United Arab Emirates wishes to associate itself with the statements of the Group of the League of Arab States, the Non-Aligned Movement, and the Non-proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI).

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has clear positions regarding disarmament and non-proliferation issues based on its firm belief in their importance in achieving the shared goals of international peace and security. My country also believes that peaceful uses of nuclear energy require transparency and full compliance to non-proliferation commitments. Therefore, we reiterate the importance of accession and full implementation of all international disarmament and non-proliferation agreements.

Mr. Chairman,

More than 70 years have passed since the use of nuclear weapons in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which demonstrated the horrific and catastrophic impact of these weapons on human beings and the environment. Therefore, it is imperative for the international community to focus in the debate on taking stronger and credible steps to achieve nuclear disarmament goals and strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime.
The Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) constitutes the cornerstone of non-proliferation regime and nuclear disarmament. Full implementation of this treaty’s provisions as well as the resolutions of its review conferences is a key priority to our work.

My delegation stresses that the only guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is the complete abandonment of these weapons, which requires a quantitative and qualitative reduction of all types of nuclear weapons according to a transparent and credible framework. It also requires States to minimize and end the role of nuclear weapons in their security and military strategies.

In the area of disarmament, while we welcome bilateral and gradual reductions in nuclear weapons, we believe that these reductions do not substitute for multilateral negotiations or for the goal of complete elimination of nuclear weapons. Therefore, we call upon nuclear states, which have not yet taken any practical steps towards disarmament, to start reducing their nuclear arsenals.

Regarding the deadlock in the disarmament conference in Geneva, we stress the importance of an international action towards concluding a treaty banning the production of fissile material for the purposes of nuclear weapons (FMCT) at the earliest.

Furthermore, the UAE emphasizes the importance of entering the CTBT treaty into force, and calls upon the States of Annex (II) to sign and ratify this treaty in order to ensure its entry into force as early as possible.

Mr. Chairman,

UAE supports strengthening the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards’ system reinforced by the Additional Protocol, as it enhances the capabilities of the Agency in the area of full verification of the peaceful nature of nuclear activities of States. The credibility of IAEA’s safeguards system is the basis of the non-proliferation system, and therefore we call upon the States whose nuclear programs raise concerns to fully cooperate with the IAEA in order to dispel
any fears in this regard. We also call upon States not to take any action that would undermine the credibility of the conclusions of the IAEA safeguards system.

In this context, the UAE hopes the recent agreement reached with Iran on its nuclear program would prove the peaceful nature of its nuclear activities, and we call upon Iran to fulfil its international commitments and cooperate fully with the IAEA in order to dispel any fears surrounding its nuclear program and build confidence in its program regionally and internationally.

Mr. Chairman,
The UAE is a model for the peaceful use of nuclear energy in meeting the growing demand for energy in the region, and we are proud that my country has a pioneering experience in the region in the peaceful use of nuclear energy surrounded with the highest standards of transparency, security and safety. In this regard, we commend the international efforts aiming at increasing awareness of the human implications of nuclear weapons.

Since the launch of the UAE peaceful nuclear energy program, significant achievements have been made in the areas of developing this national program and its infrastructure. Construction of the 4th nuclear reactor in the UAE has started on 2 September, 2015.

On conclusion, the UAE affirms the importance of collective action on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation issues, and its support for all efforts to achieve this goal.

Thank you.