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Statement of
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
to
THE CONFERENCE ON FACILITATING THE ENTRY
INTO FORCE OF THE CTBT

By
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Co-Presidents ,

I would like to congratulate you on your election for the presidency of this conference. I am confident that your leadership and skills will contribute to the success of the conference to reach fruitful conclusions. You can be assured that UAE will give its full support and cooperation in facilitating your task.

Co-Presidents,

The United Arab Emirates has adopted non- changing positions on the issues of nuclear tests ban, disarmament and international nuclear security, in which I would like to highlight some of these positions.

UAE believes that peaceful nuclear energy constitutes a viable option for countries to meet its growing energy demand due to its competitive nature environmentally and commercially.

Fully understanding the concerns related to nuclear energy in the areas of safety, security and non-proliferation, the UAE has adopted its policy in 2008 on the development of a peaceful nuclear energy program. The policy paper listed government positions, commitments and strategies in this regard, with particular focus on maintaining highest standards of nuclear security, non-proliferation and an emphasis on working with the international community to achieve these commitments.

Today, the UAE government is taking further tangible steps to support the non-proliferation efforts of the international community. These steps, which include the development of an innovative model for adopting peaceful nuclear energy, should help to reduce global non-proliferation concerns by demonstrating that nuclear energy can be adopted in a manner that is highly transparent, safe, secure, and peaceful.

The political commitment of the UAE to the peaceful use of nuclear energy represents a long-standing position, which was demonstrated when the UAE acceded to the NPT in 1995 and ratified the CTBT in 2000. UAE remains fully committed to its obligations under the NPT , the obligations under CTBT and the agreements reached by contracting parties at the 1995 and 2000 NPT review conferences. In this regard, The UAE would like to reiterate its long standing position for the total elimination of all nuclear testing. As a ratifying party to the treaty, the UAE strongly supports the establishment of a comprehensive ban on all nuclear test explosions to stop qualitative development of nuclear weapons.

UAE is pleased to note that 181 states have signed the treaty in which 150 have ratified it. This is an indication of the international acceptance of the treaty objectives to ban nuclear testing of all forms. However, only 35 states of the required 44 in annex 2 of the treaty have ratified. UAE calls for the remaining 5 states to ratify the treaty, and those who have not yet done so yet to sign and ratify. The UAE also calls for all states to refrain from any actions contrary to the treaty objectives and purpose.

In this regard, I would stress that nuclear states have an important role to play in the area of nuclear security and non-proliferation, and carry responsibilities in facilitating the entry in force of the CTBT. The early ratification of remaining nuclear states would facilitate and encourage other states to join and ratify the treaty.

UAE is pleased to note the progress and the continuing efforts of the preparatory commission for the CTBTO, in particular the advancement in developing a verification regime. The system response to the recent events in DPRK has demonstrated its importance and maturity.

In conclusion, I would like reiterate UAE position for total elimination of nuclear weapons and calls for all nuclear states to work on disarmament issues progressively. I would also like to reaffirm the UAE's full support for the CTBT objectives, with hope that the outcome of this conference will facilitate the entry in force and encourage states that have not done so to ratify and sign the treaty, and would contribute to a nuclear weapon-free world.