Statement by Ambassador Mootaz Ahmedeln Khalil
Permanent representative of Egypt to the United Nations in New York
before the General Assembly
Item 88 of the agenda: "Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)"

New York, November 5, 2013

Mr. President,

I would like to thank the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Mr. Yukiya Amano, for his Report to the United Nations General Assembly. In recognition of the valued activities of the IAEA demonstrated in the report, the delegation of Egypt continues to join the list of sponsors of the annual resolution contained in document A/68/L.10.

Mr. President,

I would like to highlight the following points on the IAEA report with regard to the three main pillars of the work of the Agency.

First: Nuclear Technology:
1. We note that the report presents nuclear energy as a low carbon source, which reduces the emission of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in energy generation and mitigates global warming. This demonstrates the potential of nuclear energy, taking into consideration that developing countries face challenges in the fields of energy and climate change.
2. IAEA’s projections, according to the 2012 report, indicate significant growth in the use of nuclear energy worldwide - between 23 and 100% - by 2030. We see this as proof of the growing determination to exercise “the inalienable right to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes” recognized in Article IV of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).
3. In order to enable developing countries to exercise their right to benefit from the peaceful uses of nuclear technologies in various sectors including electricity generation, health, agriculture, food, water resources and radioisotopes, priority should be given to the IAEA’s activities in the field of technical cooperation. We reaffirm the necessity of securing adequate and predictable funding for international cooperation which is one of the main pillars of the work of the Agency in accordance with its Statute.

Second: Nuclear Safety and Security:
1. The report mentions that the impact of the Fukushima accident continued to be felt in 2012, slowing the rate of expansion of nuclear power. It also highlights that “ageing management”,
for nuclear power plants and research reactors, continues to be an important issue. Egypt reiterates, in this regard, the importance of IAEA’s central role in matters relating to nuclear safety, including by assisting Member States, at their request, in capacity building and relevant infrastructure. These aspects are important priorities in the implementation of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety.

2. On nuclear security, I wish to refer to the IAEA’s International Conference on Nuclear Security held in Vienna in July 2013. The primary responsibility for nuclear safety and nuclear security rests with the State in question. Initiatives and measures aiming at enhancing nuclear security and safety should not be used as a pretext for restricting the right of countries to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

**Third: Verification:**

1. The rights and privileges related to peaceful uses of nuclear energy are anchored in the NPT, the cornerstone of the non-proliferation regime. The NPT lacks universality in the Middle East. All States of the Middle East apply comprehensive safeguards except Israel whose opaque nuclear activities remain outside international control, in disregard to the many UN and IAEA resolutions calling for its accession to the NPT as a non-nuclear-weapon State. There is no doubt that this situation increases the risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East and hinders the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons in the region.

2. We regret that the Conference on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons, and all other weapons of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East was not held in 2012 as mandated by the 2010 NPT Review Conference. The Foreign Minister of Egypt announced during the high level segment of the current General Assembly session, yet another Egyptian initiative to facilitate the establishment of a Middle East Zone free of weapons of mass destruction.

3. The implementation of this Egyptian initiative would subject all of nuclear facilities in the Middle East to full scope IAEA safeguards. By that, it would enhance the Agency verification activities in the region, and consolidate its role in ensuring the non proliferation of nuclear weapons.

4. As coordinator of the New Agenda Coalition (NAC), Egypt tabled, on behalf of the coalition, the annual resolution entitled “Towards a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World”. The resolution, supported in the First Committee by an overwhelming majority of 165 votes last week, calls upon all states to support, within the context of the IAEA, the development of nuclear disarmament verification capabilities and legally binding verification arrangements, thereby ensuring the irreversible removal of all fissile material designated by each nuclear-weapon State as no longer required for military purposes. Egypt also contributed actively in including for the first time reference to ‘safeguarded worldwide disarmament’ in the Agency’s resolution entitled ‘Strengthening the Effectiveness and Improving the Efficiency of Agency Safeguards’. We call on the Agency to make full use of these mandates in the field of nuclear disarmament.

**Mr. President,**

Egypt renews its determination to intensify cooperation with the IAEA with the aim of strengthening our national capacities in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear technology. We are strongly committed to providing support to the IAEA’s three of pillars of work - nuclear technology, nuclear safety and security, and verification- in our strive to establish a more peaceful, prosperous and stable world.

Thank you for your attention.