Statement

of the United Arab Emirates

before the General Assembly of the United Nations

On the draft resolution concerning the situation in Afghanistan

Delivered by Mr. Jamal Jama Al Musharakh

2nd Secretary at the Permanent Mission of the UAE to the UN

New York, 20 November 2014
Mr. President,

The United Arab Emirates reaffirms full support for the draft resolution before the General Assembly today on the situation in Afghanistan, and renews its cosponsor-ship of the draft resolution. The UAE recognizes the importance of uniting efforts in supporting the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and its people towards a prosperous and stable path, which would eventually lead to sustainable economic development and all inclusive and effective social advancement for all members of the Afghan society. We also welcome the new President of Afghanistan, Mr. Ashraf Ghani. We wish him success in his presidency.

The UAE stresses the importance of the continued support of the international community with Afghanistan while it takes its responsibility for its commitment to the outcomes of international conferences such as Kabul, Bonn, Tokyo, Istanbul, Lisbon and Chicago. The UAE also looks forward to the conference to be held next month in London on the recovery of the Afghan economy, and affirms its commitment to support Afghanistan, which translates into the stability of the region as a whole, including in the United Arab Emirates.

Mr. President,

The UAE commends the recent political progress on the political level through electoral experience and commends the role of the Secretary-General and his Special Representative for Afghanistan and head of UNMA in supporting an Afghan led political process.

We also reaffirm the importance of supporting the Afghan-led political process and the Afghan forces in assuming security responsibility, through providing training, funding and necessary support. Security and Stability is a vital importance in ensuring economic recovery and the development of its society. We therefore underline the importance of a national reconciliation process that will bring various components of Afghan society in order to hold a peaceful dialogue, including women.

On the humanitarian and development aspect, the UAE continued carrying its projects in Afghanistan through the work of the Committee in unifying the efforts of all donors and UAE charity institutions within a framework that aims at meeting the basic needs of the Afghani people such as nutrition, health care and providing for orphans and people with special needs. The UAE also continues implementing various infrastructure projects throughout Afghanistan, such as roads, schools and mosques. The UAE has launched a housing project in Qasba region in Kabul, which aims at building 3330 housing units with a budget of US$158 million, 70 per cent of the project was completed.
The UAE continues its work in assisting the Afghan people through cooperation with Member States and various institutions to implement projects with long-term benefits that will serve its economy and enhance its work force. The UAE launched the Fatima bint Mohammed Initiative for the production of carpets in Afghanistan, which had increased after the initiative to reach 20 per cent of the gross domestic growth in the country. It also provides work opportunity to more than 4000 people, 70 per cent of whom are women, and daily income to meet the basic needs of the Afghan families, and it exceeds the average per capita income in Afghanistan. Today, this project opens the door for the carpet industry to the global markets, as an implementation of the UAE’s sustainable development plan that includes combating unemployment in rural Afghanistan. The UAE has also implemented health projects such as the joint venture with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to vaccinate children in Afghanistan, to which the UAE has allocated $33 million, and contributed to the global efforts of eradication Polio by 2018, particularly in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Mr. President,

Afghanistan has long been a victim of terrorism and extremism, to that end, the UAE stresses the importance of redoubling international efforts in combating terrorism and extremism as they have direct detrimental impacts on the advancement of societies. The UAE has pursued a firm policy that includes coordinated efforts to enhance its national legislations, laws and decisions, as shown in its list of designated terrorist organizations such as Al-Qaida, that was approved by the UAE Cabinet in pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Act no. 7 of 2014 on countering terrorist offences, issued by His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, and the decision of the UAE Cabinet on the terrorist lists system. In this context, the UAE continues working with other partners in the framework of its membership in the Global Counterterrorism Forum, and its hosting of “Hedayah” the first international center of excellence in Abu Dhabi. From its part, the UAE has consistently raised awareness on moderation in Islam through training afghan imams, a training programme project the UAE has allocated to, an amount of 44 million AED, which consists of two phases: phase one successfully trained 11,000 Mullahs and was completed in 201 and Phase two aims to train 20,000 Mullahs, 1,500 of whom will be women, and will be completed by September 2015. Moreover, 320 of those trainees will be qualified to train other participants which will contribute effectively in creating a moderate and sustained environment in Afghanistan for decade.
In conclusion, Mr. President, we emphasize the UAE’s readiness to provide the required support for the Afghan people, and it looks forward to continue the dialogue and discussions between officials of the two countries to enhance cooperation and coordination in security and development.

Thank you, Mr. President.