

Contact: Bader Bin Saeed, UAE Embassy, (202) 243-2400
or Matthew Triaca, The Harbour Group, (202) 295-8789

**President Obama Advances US-UAE Bilateral Nuclear Energy
Agreement, Reinforcing New Global Model
for Peaceful Electricity Development**

UAE Leadership Welcomes Step as Enhancing UAE-US Relationship

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Washington, DC (May 21, 2009) – H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.) Minister of Foreign Affairs, welcomed the announcement that President Barack Obama approved the Bilateral Agreement for Peaceful Nuclear Energy Cooperation with the U.A.E. The agreement, which was signed today by H.E. Yousef Al Otaiba, U.A.E. Ambassador to the United States (U.S.) and U.S. State Department officials, was then transmitted to the U.S. Congress for its review.

The so-called “123 Agreement” establishes a legal framework for commerce in civilian nuclear energy between the two countries, reinforcing the U.A.E.’s new global gold standard for peaceful nuclear energy development. The U.S. Congress will review the document before it can come into force.

“We appreciate President Obama’s support, and we look forward to working with the U.S. Congress,” said the Foreign Minister. “We have worked closely with the International Atomic Energy Agency (I.A.E.A), the U.S. government and other responsible nations to create a program that is peaceful by design, with the highest standards of safety, security, operational transparency and nonproliferation.”

President Obama recently outlined the U.S.’s goals on nonproliferation. “We need a new paradigm for civil nuclear cooperation that allows all countries to enjoy the benefits of nuclear power, while avoiding the spread of nuclear weapons and technologies,” he said during a speech on April 5, 2009 in Prague, Czech Republic. During his speech, the U.S. President also underscored U.S. support for an international fuel bank, to which the U.A.E. committed \$10 million last year.

The U.A.E.'s rapid growth, even in the context of the current global economic slowdown, has created a critical need for diverse, reliable and clean base-load electricity. Current, committed capacity can meet only half the expected demand by 2020. Extensive analysis confirmed that peaceful nuclear energy offers the best solution to these urgent electricity demands.

In April 2008, the U.A.E. released details on its evaluation and potential development of peaceful nuclear energy, creating an approach that is peaceful by design. Among its key policy commitments are pledges to forego any domestic fuel enrichment or reprocessing capability, in favor of long-term external fuel-supply arrangements. This breaks the link to future militarization and ensures that these sensitive technologies will not be present in the U.A.E.

“The U.A.E is establishing a model for utilizing peaceful nuclear energy, without increasing the risk of nuclear proliferation,” said Hamad Al Kaabi, the U.A.E’s permanent representative to the I.A.E.A. “The support of the U.S. Administration for this model reflects shared principles and common vision.”

The U.A.E. has moved forward on its nonproliferation commitments. Most recently, the U.A.E. signed the I.A.E.A. Additional Protocol to the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement, establishing a procedure for stringent inspections of nuclear facilities and operations. Government officials, nonproliferation experts and leaders in the energy industry worldwide have expressed support for the U.A.E. approach.

“This agreement deepens an already close U.S.-U.A.E. partnership that is based on shared security and economic interests. We are delighted that the congressional review process can begin,” said U.A.E. Ambassador to the United States Yousef Al Otaiba. “The U.A.E. wants to seriously consider U.S. companies for implementation of our program.”

More information is available at www.usuae123.org.

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