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Provisional

<i>President:</i>	Mr. Fu Cong	(China)
<i>Members:</i>	Bahrain	Mr. Alrowaiei
	Colombia	Mr. Amaya Piñeros
	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Mr. Mukongo
	Denmark	Ms. Landi
	France	Mr. Bonnafont
	Greece	Mrs. Balta
	Latvia	Ms. Pavļuta-Deslandes
	Liberia	Mr. Sillah
	Pakistan	Mr. Ahmad
	Panama	Mr. Alfaro de Alba
	Russian Federation	Mr. Nebenzia
	Somalia	Mr. Mohamed Yusuf
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Kariuki
	United States of America	Mr. Waltz

Agenda

The situation in the Middle East

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The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Middle East

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of the United Arab Emirates to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Rafael Mariano Grossi, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I give the floor to Mr. Grossi.

Mr. Grossi: An attack on the Barakah nuclear power plant in the United Arab Emirates has threatened nuclear safety in the country. A drone strike on the morning of Sunday, 17 May, caused a fire in an electrical generator located outside the inner site perimeter of the plant. Radiation levels at the nuclear power plant remain normal, and no injuries were reported. The use of emergency diesel generators to provide power to the plant's unit 3 was necessary, but offsite power has since been restored — an important step for nuclear safety.

Not long after the attack, I spoke on the phone with His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates, assuring him of the support of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Over the past few days, I have also been in contact with leaders throughout the Gulf region, and I can see the unease and great concern. I have been discussing how the IAEA can offer assistance. Since last year, the IAEA has been gathering information, as well as analysing and evaluating emergency preparedness and response capacities. I will be travelling to the Gulf soon to continue this important joint work. The IAEA will continue providing guidance and training to competent authorities and first responders in areas including radiological impact, emergency protective measures for the public and workers, international emergency arrangements, emergency response plans and the provision of equipment and services to support emergency response.

We stand ready, if necessary, to deploy the Agency's nuclear safety and security experts to support nuclear safety efforts on the ground, in accordance with the IAEA's mandate. We have done this in other war theatres with good results. The IAEA's Incident and Emergency Centre in Vienna is operating 24/7, following the situation closely, and it is in constant contact with the Emirati authorities.

The situation is of grave concern. This is a nuclear site in the Middle East where the consequences of an attack could be very serious. It is an operating nuclear power plant. As such, it hosts thousands of kilograms of nuclear material in the core of the reactors — fresh and spent fuel. I want to make it absolutely and completely clear: in case of an attack on the Barakah nuclear power plant, a direct hit could result in a very high release of radioactivity to the environment. A hit that disables the lines supplying electrical power to the plant could increase the likelihood of its reactors' cores melting, which could result in a high release of radioactivity. Both of these worst-case scenarios would necessitate protective actions, such as evacuations and sheltering of the population or the need to take stable iodine, with the reach extending to distances from a few kilometres to several hundred kilometres. Radiation monitoring would need to

cover distances of several hundred kilometres, and food restrictions might need to be implemented.

As I have stated several times, including to the Council, attacks on nuclear facilities devoted to peaceful purposes are unacceptable. This is consistent with the IAEA General Conference resolutions. Attacks are even more dangerous when they are against operating nuclear power plants, like Zaporizhzia, Kursk, Bushehr or Barakah — or any other nuclear power plant. Nuclear power plants are protected under international humanitarian law. I reiterate my calls for all parties to conflicts to respect the seven indispensable pillars for ensuring nuclear safety and security, which I have articulated both at the IAEA's Board of Governors and before the Security Council. As I did in June 2025, when I last briefed the Council (see S/PV.9941), I call for maximum restraint. Military activities against nuclear power plants and other nuclear facilities carry undeniable risks.

I would like to commend the authorities of the United Arab Emirates for providing the IAEA with timely and regular technical information about affected nuclear facilities and their respective sites. Immediate engagement with the IAEA's Incident and Emergency Centre is of the essence. Our teams are working around the clock. They are following the developments on the ground, and they are ready to deploy.

I will continue to provide public updates about the impact of this conflict on nuclear sites and the possible health and environmental consequences, while remaining in permanent consultation with the Governments in the region.

It is clear that the only sustainable path forward to peace, stability and cooperation is one grounded in dialogue and diplomacy. The International Atomic Energy Agency, as the international technical institution entrusted with overseeing the peaceful use of nuclear energy, remains a vital forum for this dialogue, especially now. There is a legitimate expectation of an overall diplomatic agreement adequately and robustly verified by the IAEA. Agreements without the verification of the exclusively peaceful use of nuclear material and facilities do not help. Engagement without prompt international evaluation and support can rapidly turn into regional crises.

In closing, I would like to assure the Security Council that the IAEA will continue to do everything within its mandate to ensure the safety and security of nuclear facilities, especially those most at risk due to conflict wherever it may take place.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Mr. Grossi for his briefing.

I shall now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements.

Mr. Alrowaiei (Bahrain) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, the Kingdom of Bahrain would like to thank the delegation of the People's Republic of China, President of the Council for this month, for its prompt response in convening this meeting. We also extend our thanks to His Excellency Mr. Rafael Grossi, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, for his important briefing on the targeting of the peaceful Barakah nuclear power plant in the United Arab Emirates and the implications of this attack for peace and nuclear safety and security. I also welcome the participation of the Permanent Representative of the brotherly United Arab Emirates in today's meeting.

We would also like to express our surprise and deep regret with regard to the contradictions dominating the international scene at this stage. Attacks targeting civilian populations, energy facilities and peaceful nuclear facilities in our region are being carried out at the same time as the convening of the Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The calls for respect for nuclear safety and security by some delegations are increasing.

However, the painful reality reveals a different picture. Dangerous escalatory acts persist and are not limited to heightening regional tensions but also extend to supporting parties and proxies who target critical infrastructure in our countries. There is a worrisome gap between political rhetoric and actual action on the ground, raising serious questions about the credibility of international commitments in this field. The contradiction between political rhetoric and actions on the ground by some of the delegations participating in the conference not only undermines trust but also weakens international efforts aimed at strengthening the non-proliferation regime. The protection of peaceful nuclear facilities is not an option but a collective international responsibility that requires a unambiguous and firm stance by the Security Council and the international community.

The Kingdom of Bahrain condemns in the strongest terms the drone attack that targeted the peaceful Barakah nuclear power plant in the United Arab Emirates on 17 May. That attack was a dangerous and unjustified escalation, a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations, a clear breach of resolution 2817 (2026) and a direct threat to the principles of nuclear safety and security for peaceful nuclear power plants.

According to statements by the competent authorities in the United Arab Emirates, two drones were intercepted while a third drone struck an electrical generator outside the Barakah plant's inner security perimeter, igniting a fire that was brought under control without affecting the reactors or the radiation safety levels. The Kingdom of Bahrain commends the efficiency and transparency of the United Arab Emirates in informing the International Atomic Energy Agency and the States of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf and in assuring them that no abnormal radiation levels had been recorded.

In the light of the repercussions of these attacks, the Kingdom of Bahrain stresses that the recovery, nearly three months since the attacks began, is being carried out with the sustained efforts of our valiant armed forces, civil defence agencies and the relevant authorities. The targeting of the Gulf Petrochemicals Industries Company facility in the Kingdom on 5 April, in particular the ammonia tank, posed a grave threat. Had it not been for the swift precautionary measures taken by the relevant authorities in the United Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Bahrain, a radioactive or chemical leak could have led to a widespread humanitarian disaster, the effects of which could have extended for several kilometres, posing a direct threat to the lives of the civilian population and the surrounding environment.

Beginning on 28 February, these attacks have not been isolated incidents but have evolved into a systematic policy based on gradual escalation. They started with ballistic missile and drone attacks and created a dangerous security reality for the countries of the region. They have become serious terrorist attacks targeting nuclear and chemical facilities. Furthermore, a number of countries in the Gulf Cooperation Council, namely the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the State of Qatar, the State of Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and my country, the Kingdom of Bahrain, have been subjected to a series of attacks targeting critical civilian infrastructure and extending to maritime corridors and freedom of international navigation. The repetition of these attacks in such an escalatory manner reflects a deliberate approach that seeks to undermine stability and the confidence in the region's security. They are a flagrant violation of the principles of international law, in particular international humanitarian law and resolution 2817 (2026).

The repercussions of these dangerous attacks have not been limited to human and material losses and the disruption of economic activities; rather, they are causing an ongoing state of anxiety and uncertainty among countries in the region and around the world. Global energy supply chains are being held hostage by a reckless policy that lacks even the most basic sense of responsibility. The continued systemic and deliberate

targeting of civilian infrastructure and energy facilities cannot be considered merely a passing threat. It is a track that undermines the foundations of regional international security. It requires a decisive and clear international stance that puts an end to these violations and demonstrates that the security and sovereignty of States and the integrity of the global economy are non-negotiable and must not be targeted.

The Kingdom of Bahrain stresses its full and firm solidarity with the brotherly State of the United Arab Emirates. The security of the United Arab Emirates is part and parcel of the security of the countries of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf. We condemn in the strongest terms the drone attacks that targeted the brotherly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on Sunday, 17 May 2026. The Kingdom stresses that these attacks are part of a repeated pattern of threats that target civilian infrastructure, energy installations and vital maritime corridors, highlighting that these threats are expanding, becoming a threat to the security and stability of the region.

The Kingdom of Bahrain reaffirms our inalienable right to self-defence, individually or collectively, under Article 51 of the Charter. We call for an immediate halt to any hostile actions or direct or indirect threats against the countries of the region. We call for refraining from supporting or empowering proxies that target civilians and critical infrastructure.

In conclusion, the Kingdom of Bahrain calls upon the Security Council to uphold its responsibilities and to take a decisive and clear stance regarding this escalation to ensure the protection of civilian infrastructure and nuclear infrastructure for peaceful purposes in order to prevent the recurrence of such attacks and to maintain international and regional peace and security.

Mrs. Balta (Greece): Greece is deeply alarmed by the reported attack in the vicinity of the Barakah nuclear power plant in the United Arab Emirates. Any strike affecting or endangering a nuclear facility constitutes an extremely serious escalation, with potentially nefarious consequences for civilian populations, regional security, the environment, energy security and international peace and security more broadly.

We unequivocally condemn this dangerous incident and express our full solidarity with the United Arab Emirates. We reiterate that the United Arab Emirates did not seek to be drawn into this conflict and should therefore not face attacks. Nuclear installations, like all critical civilian infrastructure, must never be targeted, threatened or exposed to military risk. Attacks on or near such facilities, which are operating solely for civilian purposes, are unacceptable, violate international law and run directly counter to the obligation to protect civilians.

This incident comes at a time of heightened regional volatility, when the risk of miscalculation is already dangerously high. It therefore underlines the urgent need for all parties to exercise maximum restraint, refrain from further escalatory action and take immediate steps towards de-escalation. The region cannot afford a wider confrontation, nor can the international community ignore the risks created by attacks on civilian and energy infrastructure.

Greece reiterates its firm attachment to the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-use of force. We call for full respect for these principles and for the immediate cessation of any actions that destabilize the region, endanger civilians or threaten critical infrastructure in countries that should not be drawn into further escalation. The violation of territorial integrity is absolutely unacceptable.

At the same time, nuclear safety and security must remain an absolute priority. The protection of nuclear facilities is not only a national responsibility, it is a matter of international concern. Any military activity that risks compromising the safety or

integrity of such installations must be avoided. In this regard, sustained cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency and full respect for all relevant safeguards and nuclear safety obligations are indispensable.

There is no military solution to the current crisis. The only sustainable path is one of restraint, dialogue and diplomacy, in accordance with international law and the United Nations Charter. Greece therefore calls on all parties to preserve the space for diplomatic efforts, avoid further provocation and work towards a peaceful resolution that addresses legitimate security concerns, while preventing further escalation.

At this critical juncture, the Security Council must send a clear and united message: attacks on or near nuclear facilities are unacceptable, civilians and critical infrastructure must be protected, freedom of navigation must be preserved and de-escalation and dialogue must prevail to ensure regional stability and the regime of non-proliferation.

Mr. Waltz (United States of America): I thank the Director General for his remarks, and I thank my colleagues in Bahrain for calling this emergency meeting.

Let us be very clear. We should truly and collectively, as a global community, be thankful to God that today is not a very different meeting after this attack. This very well could have been an attack where we are discussing the meltdown of a nuclear reactor and the untold and unprecedented humanitarian and environmental crisis that would have caused. One can only imagine if that reactor's power plant, which was hit, was no longer able to cool the plant in a sufficient way and there was a meltdown across the Middle East. But one can only wonder if this was Iran's objective as it sent drone strikes onto the Barakah nuclear power plant in the United Arab Emirates.

We have to ask ourselves what responsible, what sane nation, either directly or indirectly through proxies, sends drone attacks onto an active and ongoing nuclear power plant.

But let us be honest. This is little different from Iran's decades-long pursuit, in violation of many Security Council resolutions, of a nuclear weapon. It is only by luck and the grace of God that this plant, which provides up to a quarter of the United Arab Emirates' energy needs, continues to operate, and thankfully radiation levels remain normal.

But again, what is the world left to believe? That if Iran, I guess, cannot achieve a nuclear weapon and it cannot use it as it has threatened over and over again on its neighbours, that it is now going to find a clever and dangerous way to weaponize a nuclear power plant? Is that what we are left to believe? I struggle to come to any other conclusion.

I have to say clearly: the United States condemns Iran's outrageous and unacceptable attacks in the strongest possible terms.

By the way, we should make note that the agreements and the way the United Arab Emirates has abided by the agreements that it has subjected itself to are considered the gold standard of nuclear agreements, the gold standard of nuclear non-proliferation, abiding by International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards, the no domestic enrichment of fuel and the actual peaceful use of nuclear power in the Middle East. Contrast that with the decades of meetings we have had in this Chamber around Iran's evasion of IAEA safeguards, pushing back on appropriate inspections and the conflict that we find ourselves in today.

Well, President Trump and the United States have been second-guessed over and over again in this conflict, but I think this makes it clear yet again that the President is taking the actions necessary to safeguard a secure and safer future for the world. What

we should be focused on is a nation that just attacked a nuclear power plant in a neighbouring country.

The Security Council cannot be a place for strongly worded statements and hand-wringing. Just minutes before this Council meeting, the United Arab Emirates stated that it intercepted six more attack drones, just in the past 48 hours. Saudi Arabia, as we have noted already, had a similar recent experience. Contrast all of this with resolution 2817 (2026), in which the Council demanded that Iran and its proxies immediately cease attacks, provocations and threats against its neighbours. The resolution garnered 136 co-sponsors — a near-unanimous global outcry for Iran to stop its flagrant violations of international law, stop attacks on shipping, stop the mining of international waters, stop the illegal tolling and stop attacking the airports, resorts and neighbourhoods of its neighbouring States.

And yet, two months later, we find Iran's dictatorship now in shambles. We find the United States Treasury Department enacting new sanctions. These are in addition to the snapback sanctions that are already in place. Iran is running out of money, and its economy is in shambles. But rather than embrace some peaceful new approach, the Iranian military is now engaging in repeated and reckless attacks on civilian power infrastructure and is clinging to a nuclear weapon strategy that risks plunging the world into darkness. We cannot tolerate it. We will not tolerate it.

We will continue to fight in the Council and in every appropriate diplomatic forum for Iran to abide by its obligations under international law. Again, we have submitted an additional draft resolution focused on violations of those basic freedoms of navigation upon which the entire world's economies depend. This attack is only the latest example of the dangerous and destabilizing activities that have come to define this regime and for which this regime is now known around the world. It is time for every nation, everyone in the Council, to call out this behaviour. The regime has threatened global peace for 47 years, from the Houthis to Hizbullah, to Hamas, to the militias in Iraq, and has brought nothing but misery and bloodshed in the Middle East and beyond. I truly hope that this body will take the opportunities before it to put an end to it.

We will continue to condemn Iran's actions. We will demand it cease its attacks. I hope and pray the Council will act. The greatest irony here is that as the Iranians recklessly sought to produce nuclear weapons, the United States took action to stop it and now, out of sheer desperation and true recklessness, they are weaponizing the peaceful nuclear power of a neighbour. This is precisely why the United States has said Iran can never have a nuclear bomb. Today is a reminder of that danger.

Mr. Amaya Piñeros (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank Director General Rafael Grossi for the information he presented today.

The recent incidents reported in the vicinity of nuclear facilities used for peaceful purposes, including the attack on a power generator near the Barakah plant, are a cause of deep concern to the international community and demand the Council's utmost attention, especially in the current context of tensions and confrontation in the Middle East. Nuclear facilities constitute highly sensitive critical infrastructure. Any damage to their physical integrity or their power supply systems can trigger enormous humanitarian, environmental and cross-border consequences. Precisely for that reason, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the role and support of which in these circumstances are vital, has consistently reiterated that any military action in the vicinity of nuclear facilities poses an unacceptable risk and must be avoided.

In that regard, Colombia considers it essential to reaffirm the seven pillars that the Agency has identified as indispensable for preserving nuclear safety in contexts of armed conflict. These pillars reflect the minimum conditions that must be maintained to prevent risks with potentially catastrophic consequences. The significance of this

meeting is even more pronounced at a time when the international community is gathered to review the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. One of the issues that has taken centre stage in the discussions has been precisely the concern regarding attacks or threats against nuclear facilities used for peaceful purposes and the risks this poses to human life, the environment and international security.

Given the deteriorating security situation in the region, Colombia reiterates that attacks against energy infrastructure, essential civilian facilities and structures on which the population depends cannot be normalized or become part of the conflict, particularly when such attacks compromise the protection of civilians and access to essential goods and services. For this reason, it is essential that the circumstances of this incident are explained fully using verifiable information. Accountability is essential in view of the attacks on civilian and essential infrastructure that have been affecting the region.

Lastly, I would also like to express our solidarity with the countries affected by the deterioration of the security situation in the Middle East and, in that regard, to reiterate the urgent call for de-escalation, a cessation of hostilities and the avoidance of any action that could further deepen instability in the region. My country values the ongoing diplomatic and mediation efforts and hopes that those efforts will lead to progress towards a lasting peace in the Middle East, with full respect for international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

Mr. Nebenzia (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We would like to thank the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Rafael Grossi, for his briefing.

According to information released on 17 May, a drone strike caused a fire in a power generator located outside the inner perimeter of the Barakah nuclear power plant in the United Arab Emirates. According to the United Arab Emirates Ministry of Defence, the drone entered the country's airspace from Iraqi territory. As reported by the IAEA and as stated today by Mr. Grossi, following the attack, power was supplied to the No. 3 reactor unit using diesel generators. Fortunately, radiation levels remain within normal limits. However, this fact in no way diminishes the danger of the incident.

The Russian Federation's position on the issue of nuclear safety and security is principled and consistent. Attacks on peaceful nuclear facilities in any country in the world, particularly those under IAEA safeguards, are categorically unacceptable. Such actions constitute a violation of international law, international humanitarian law, the relevant conventions and nuclear safety standards. They must not be carried out under any circumstances. Against this backdrop, our country categorically condemns the actions of those who struck the nuclear power plant on the territory of the United Arab Emirates, thereby creating risks of escalation that threaten to further undermine regional and global security.

In the context of the current situation in the Middle East, our country has repeatedly reaffirmed its commitment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries in the region without exception, including the United Arab Emirates. We see as unacceptable any strikes against civilian infrastructure in the countries of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, and if this infrastructure is linked to nuclear facilities, as is the case under consideration today, such actions give rise to even greater concern. We trust that all stakeholders will take all necessary measures to prevent the recurrence of such a dangerous incident, including incidents that pose safety and security threats to the Barakah nuclear power plant.

Unfortunately, the incident under discussion today is by no means the first attack targeting a civilian nuclear facility in the context of the current escalation in the Middle East. Back in June 2025, Israel and the United States carried out direct strikes targeting industrial facilities and research centres on Iranian soil, in Fordow, Natanz, Isfahan and

Arak. However, this situation became even more perilous in the wake of 28 February, with the start of the United States-Israeli aggression against Iran. In recent months, beyond most of the aforementioned facilities, strikes were also launched against the Bushehr nuclear power plant, which was built and made operational with the direct participation of the Russian Federation. And this did not happen once or twice. Attacks in the immediate proximity of the plant's operating power unit took place on 17, 24 and 27 March, as well as on 4 April. The most recent attack resulted in tragedy: a security officer, an Iranian citizen, died. Moreover, from 10 March to 1 April, a host of missile strikes were carried out against the satellite towns around the nuclear power plant and their vicinity.

Not only did all these illegal and reckless actions bring the entire Middle East region to the brink of a nuclear and radiological catastrophe, but they also posed a threat to the safety, lives and health of Russian specialists working at this facility, along with their families. As a result, the Rosatom Corporation and the personnel of Russian diplomatic missions in Iran had to conduct an exceedingly complex operation to evacuate our nationals from the plant that was under fire. The Russian Federation has repeatedly drawn attention to the strikes targeting the Bushehr plant, including in relevant statements by the Russian Ministry for Foreign Affairs. We note that the Director General of the IAEA has also voiced his assessments on this matter. In particular, Mr. Grossi expressed deep concern about the attacks targeting the operating plant.

Against this backdrop, we are genuinely perplexed by the fact that Secretary-General António Guterres, who yesterday expressed his deep alarm at the strike in the vicinity of the Barakah nuclear power plant, had previously never deemed it necessary to react to the numerous attacks targeting the Bushehr plant. Such double standards and attempts to cover up the most egregious and exceedingly dangerous violations of international law, especially on such a sensitive matter, are categorically unacceptable.

Incidentally, this fully applies to the criminal attacks by the Kyiv regime targeting a Russian civilian nuclear facility, namely, the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant. On 27 April, one of the plant's employees was killed as a result of such actions by the Ukrainian army. And on 16 May, a Ukrainian drone crashed on the facility grounds. Fortunately, it did not detonate. In subsequent days, there were also other attempted attacks on the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant. We are compelled to note that these incidents, unlike the strike on the Barakah plant, never received their due reaction from the secretariats of the United Nations and the IAEA. This is particularly surprising, given that the IAEA has its experts at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, who have an opportunity to witness first-hand the Ukrainian attacks and the consequences thereof. We demand that our colleagues at the IAEA secretariat provide unequivocal assessments of these criminal acts by Kyiv and issue stringent warnings to those countries that continue to stoke military escalation around Iran, threatening with further attacks against its peaceful nuclear facilities.

The international community has an obligation to prevent such actions from becoming routine anywhere in the world — either in the Middle East or in Europe — and to compel “hotheads” to stop jeopardizing the lives of millions of people. The leadership of specialized international organizations must assume a principled position on this matter and send unambiguous messages about the inadmissibility of such actions. When it comes to matters of nuclear safety and security, double standards and selective approaches are unacceptable, and these matters should not be subject to any political considerations.

It is abundantly clear that we would not be here today discussing the threats to nuclear and radiological safety and security emerging in the Middle East were it not for the United States-Israeli military misadventure targeting Iran. It is indeed Washington

and West Jerusalem that bear responsibility for the current regional escalation. In this context, we cannot help but note the earlier threats about the complete destruction of Iran's energy system, which are giving rise to ever greater concern, against the backdrop of the hawkish rhetoric that has been rekindled in recent days. I wish to stress that putting an end to the escalation and eliminating all its negative repercussions, including those related to nuclear safety and security, will only be possible through the eradication of the root causes of the conflict. We call upon the parties to abandon the language of threats, stop raising the stakes and immediately revert to the path of political and diplomatic settlement in order to arrive at a sustainable and long-term solution. The Russian Federation stands ready to provide the necessary assistance in these efforts.

Mr. Bonnafont (France) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I thank the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Mr. Rafael Grossi, for his briefing. His briefing alerts us to the risk of a new regional escalation, which must be avoided at all costs, and his words remind us of the seriousness of any attack on nuclear facilities. We thank the IAEA for its professionalism and vigilance and the firm manner in which it performs its duties.

France condemns in the strongest terms this drone attack on the Barakah nuclear power plant on 17 May. These attacks must end immediately. We reaffirm our full solidarity with the United Arab Emirates, and we stand ready to continue to contribute to the defence of its territory. France reiterates its commitment to the sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of all its partners in the Middle East. The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Jean-Noël Barrot, reaffirmed that solidarity on his recent visit to the region.

Attacks on operational civilian nuclear facilities and on the electrical systems required for their functioning risk compromising nuclear safety and security. We call upon all parties to show restraint and uphold their relevant obligations, especially those under international humanitarian law. I also wish to underscore France's support for the independent and impartial action of the IAEA and its Director General. Now more than ever, their role is vital to promoting best practices in nuclear safety and security in armed conflict zones and to ensuring compliance with the international non-proliferation regime. In that regard, we reiterate our full support for the seven pillars and five principles set forth by the Director General before the Council in 2022.

The Middle East is once again faced with the threat of a dangerous escalation. In this context, France reiterates its conviction that only compliance with international law and finding a political settlement can ensure a return to lasting peace and stability in the region. In that regard, it is crucial that the ceasefires throughout the region, in Iran as in Lebanon, be respected and that de-escalation be pursued. France calls for a sustainable reduction of tensions in the Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz and for an immediate, unconditional and unrestricted reopening of this international waterway, in line with the principles of the law of the sea. As part of the Franco-British initiative supported by approximately 30 countries, we are working on planning a neutral and peaceful defensive escort mission that, when conditions permit, will contribute to ensuring freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz. Beyond that, France underscores its unwavering commitment to a diplomatic solution to the Iranian crisis. Our stance has been clear for more than 20 years: only a negotiated, robust and lasting solution is capable of ensuring that Iran never acquires a nuclear weapon and addressing the threats connected to its ballistic missile programme and its regional destabilization activities. France stands ready to play its full part in that regard.

Mr. Mukongo (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (*spoke in French*): I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the three African members of the Security Council (A3), namely Liberia, Somalia and my own country, the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The A3 countries thank Mr Rafael Grossi, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), for his particularly informative briefing. We take this opportunity to reaffirm our unreserved support for the efforts of the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency to preserve the integrity of the international nuclear safety and security regime.

The A3 is deeply concerned at developments in the Middle East, at a time when considerable efforts are under way to arrive at a lasting de-escalation following weeks of bitter combat. The drone attack that targeted the Barakah nuclear facilities in the United Arab Emirates has just dangerously shattered the uncertain equilibrium established by the Islamabad talks, in a highly fragile regional context marked by a constantly volatile security situation. The A3 condemns this attack and conveys its solidarity with the Gulf States in the region and their communities affected by the current tensions.

The A3 points out that nuclear safety and security must, under all circumstances, be protected and cannot be jeopardized, including in situations involving tensions or armed hostilities. Nuclear facilities and other facilities critical to nuclear safety must never become targets, given the threat they pose, should they sustain damage. Accordingly, they enjoy specific protection under international humanitarian law. We underline the overriding importance of safeguarding civilian populations at risk and civilian infrastructure and the need to desist from turning nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards in accordance with the relevant decisions of the IAEA, the decisions and resolutions of the Security Council and all relevant provisions of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, into targets of war.

Any further escalation in the Gulf region is likely to exacerbate instability, with significant repercussions for regional security and the global economy. The A3 continues to be of the view that no lasting solution can come of armed confrontation or escalation. Only a genuine commitment to dialogue and de-escalation will allow a return to calm. The A3 therefore urges all the parties to exercise the utmost restraint, to avert any escalation that could further compound the regional situation and to continue in good faith the talks recently set in motion with a view to achieving a genuine and lasting peace, which it will rest with us to safeguard.

In conclusion, the A3 wishes to reaffirm its readiness to support all efforts, both within the Council and in cooperation with regional and international partners, to facilitate a peaceful, inclusive and lasting settlement to the situation in the Middle East.

Mr. Ahmad (Pakistan): I would like to thank Director General Grossi for his briefing.

Pakistan strongly condemns the drone attack on the Barakah nuclear power plant in the United Arab Emirates on 17 May. Pakistan stands in complete solidarity with the Government and the brotherly people of the United Arab Emirates in the wake of this heinous attack and reiterates its full support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all friendly countries of the region. Pakistan also condemns in the strongest possible terms the drone attacks carried out against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which constitute a serious violation of the Kingdom's sovereignty and territorial integrity and appear to be an attempt to further undermine regional peace and stability. We stand in solidarity with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and reaffirm our full and unwavering support for the Kingdom's security, peace and prosperity.

Any and all targeting of nuclear facilities constitutes a grave violation of international law, including international humanitarian law, the Charter of the United Nations and the fundamental principles of nuclear safety and security enshrined in the Statute and various resolutions of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Pakistan has previously articulated its clear position on this issue in the Council, and we reiterate that

nuclear installations must never be targeted under any circumstances. The inviolability of civilian nuclear infrastructure is a well-established international norm and must be upheld without exception. Increasing incidents of attacks against nuclear facilities demand serious introspection and action to address the legal, safety and security implications of such attacks. In addition to constituting serious violations of international law, attacks against nuclear facilities pose a grave danger to the safety of populations in the region. As a neighbouring country, we remain seriously concerned about this dangerous trend. Such reckless actions carry potentially catastrophic and irreversible consequences for human life, the environment and regional and global peace and security.

The unacceptable drone attacks against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates Barakah nuclear power plant are yet another reminder of the imperative to definitively stop the ongoing tensions and confrontation in the region. Pakistan calls upon all parties to exercise maximum restraint, fulfil their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law, and avoid any actions that could further escalate tensions, with consequences extending far beyond the region.

As also underlined by Director General Grossi and other Council colleagues, dialogue and diplomacy, consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, remain the only viable path towards de-escalation and lasting peace and stability in the region. It is in this context that Pakistan has been making sincere efforts to facilitate diplomatic engagement between the concerned parties, and we thank the parties, all our partners and the Secretary-General for supporting these efforts. Let me reiterate: there is no alternative to diplomacy and dialogue for the peaceful resolution of disputes. Pakistan will continue to play its constructive role to facilitate dialogue between the parties for a fruitful outcome.

Ms. Landi (Denmark): Let me thank Director General Grossi for the informative briefing and welcome the representative of the United Arab Emirates to the meeting today.

First of all, Denmark strongly condemns the drone attacks on the United Arab Emirates near the Barakah nuclear power plant in Abu Dhabi. These reckless attacks pose a threat to the safety of the entire region. We stand in full solidarity with the United Arab Emirates.

We are relieved that reports show that the radiation level at Barakah have remained at normal levels and that no injuries were reported from the attack. We recognize the important role of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in monitoring the situation and welcome the constant contact between the IAEA and the United Arab Emirates authorities. However, attacks near nuclear facilities entail great risks for the population as well as for the environment. We remain deeply concerned about military activity that threatens nuclear safety. We call for maximum military restraint near nuclear sites and other installations important for nuclear safety to avoid the danger of a nuclear accident.

While this attack near the Barakah plant is the focus of today's meeting, it is taking place in the context of a deeply concerning wider regional conflict across the Middle East. Since the beginning of May, we have seen renewed Iranian attacks against the Gulf countries. Denmark strongly condemns these attacks, which are completely unacceptable, and they must stop immediately.

The risk of wider conflict and increased regional destabilization is clear and it is deeply worrisome. Denmark calls on all actors to work towards a peaceful resolution in line with international law, and as many speakers before me have done. We call for the full implementation of Security Council resolution 2817 (2026).

Mr. Kariuki (United Kingdom): I thank Director General Grossi for his briefing, and I welcome the participation of the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates at our meeting today. Let me also take this opportunity to thank Mr. Grossi and staff at the International Atomic Energy Agency for their professionalism and dedication in delivering essential work on nuclear safety, security and safeguards, often in the most challenging circumstances.

The United Kingdom condemns this attack on the Barakah nuclear facility in the United Arab Emirates in the strongest terms. This was a reckless attack which could have had severe consequences for nuclear safety and for regional security. We welcome reports that radiation levels remain normal and that no injuries have been reported.

We call on all parties to protect civilians and civilian infrastructure and to apply, respect and uphold international law, including the Charter of the United Nations and international humanitarian law. Such actions risk further escalation at a time of heightened tensions.

Looking to the wider region, we welcome action from the Council, led by the Gulf, to address increased tensions and instability. Resolution 2817 (2026) is clear: Iran must cease all attacks, including in the Strait of Hormuz. These attacks continue to threaten global security and prosperity, increase economic pressure on the most vulnerable and put civilian lives in danger.

The United Kingdom stands firmly alongside the United Arab Emirates and all our partners in the region in support of their sovereignty, security and protection of critical national infrastructure. We will continue to pursue all diplomatic efforts to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, including here in the Security Council, while providing practical support to help defend our friends in the Gulf.

The situation in the Middle East remains fragile. We all want to see a de-escalation of tensions in the region. Together we must do all we can to support and sustain the ceasefire. We call on Iran to engage meaningfully in negotiations and to move towards lasting and sustainable peace.

Mr. Alfaro de Alba (Panama) (*spoke in Spanish*): We would like to thank the presidency for convening this meeting, and we acknowledge the presence of the representative of the United Arab Emirates, whose participation is a great honour for us. We would also like to thank Rafael Mariano Grossi, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, for his briefing today.

Recent events, which are still under investigation, are heightening our concerns about the still unstable situation in the Middle East. Although a fragile ceasefire remains in place, pockets of tension persist, along with growing uncertainty regarding the course of the conflict and its humanitarian, political and security implications for the region and the international community.

International law, the Charter of the United Nations, the fundamental principles of nuclear safety and the relevant resolutions of the International Atomic Energy Agency have clearly established that civilian nuclear facilities and infrastructure must not be attacked, ever, by anyone, under any circumstances. Director General Grossi has just confirmed this quite clearly during his briefing.

This is so because any action, particularly of a military nature, that jeopardizes the physical security of such facilities poses a serious risk to the civilian population, the environment and regional stability, with potential consequences that extend beyond the borders of the States involved in any conflict. That is why the ban on such attacks cannot and must not be selective.

The continuation of this situation of instability and confrontation is heightening uncertainty in the region and increasing the risks to international peace and security, with potential repercussions for global energy stability, the security of maritime routes and the smooth functioning of energy supply chains.

We stand in solidarity with the United Arab Emirates and with its sovereignty and territorial integrity. In this context, we reiterate the importance of acting with the utmost caution and restraint, avoiding any actions that might exacerbate existing tensions. We also reaffirm the value of dialogue, diplomacy and full respect for international law as essential paths to contribute to regional stability and preserve international peace and security.

Ms. Pavļuta-Deslandes (Latvia): Allow me to thank the presidency for convening this urgent meeting so promptly. I also thank the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Rafael Grossi, for his briefing today.

First and foremost, Latvia reiterates its steadfast solidarity with the United Arab Emirates and all our partners in the Gulf. We strongly and unequivocally condemn Iran's numerous unprovoked attacks against countries in the region. Any and all strikes against civilian nuclear infrastructure are completely unacceptable and illegal. The reckless attack on the Barakah power plant in the United Arab Emirates represents a dangerous escalation in the ongoing conflict.

A strike on a nuclear power plant poses immense risks to civilians, with the potential to inflict far-reaching long-term consequences for the region. As stated by the Secretary-General, it is a clear violation of international law and international humanitarian law, which provides special protection to nuclear installations precisely because of the potentially devastating consequences in cases of damage. Immediate de-escalation and an immediate cessation of all hostilities are urgently needed. The ceasefire must be observed by all parties, including various proxy elements.

We support continued negotiations to find a sustainable solution to security concerns around Iran's nuclear programme, ballistic missile programme and the regime's destabilizing activities in the region and beyond. The global disruptions stemming from the closure of the Strait of Hormuz by Iran continue to undermine global energy and food security and harm those most vulnerable around the globe. The latest attack on the United Arab Emirates is a stark reminder of the need for dialogue and negotiated peace.

This attack against a nuclear power plant in the United Arab Emirates once again illustrates the profound similarities between the unprovoked strikes against the Gulf and those perpetrated by Russia against Ukraine's civilian nuclear energy infrastructure. Russia's aggression and hostile actions on Ukraine's nuclear energy infrastructure objects threaten the whole of Europe with radiological disasters of unimaginable consequences too. Latvia reaffirms its call for the protection of civilians, civilian nuclear installations and freedom of navigation and the need for the Council's unity in the face of such blatant violations of international law.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of China.

I thank Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi for his briefing and welcome the representative of the United Arab Emirates to this meeting.

Recently, facilities at the Barakah nuclear power plant in the United Arab Emirates were attacked by drones. Although the incident did not cause any casualties or any impact on radiation safety levels, this dangerous and irresponsible act has sounded the alarm for the international community. China expresses great concern over the incident, opposes armed attacks on nuclear facilities used for peaceful purposes and calls on all

parties to abide by international law, including the Convention on Nuclear Safety and to effectively safeguard the safety and security of nuclear power plants. The sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of countries in the Middle East and the Gulf must be fully respected, and civilians and civilian objects must be protected.

As long as the armed conflict continues, the safety risks it poses to regional nuclear facilities will persist. The current war in the Middle East originated from the illegal military attacks by the United States and Israel against Iran. Since its outbreak, the conflict has inflicted severe losses on the peoples of countries across the region, including Iran and Gulf States, severely disrupted global economic development and harmed the shared interests of the international community. This war should never have happened in the first place. Quickly finding a way to resolve the situation is in the interest of not only the United States and Iran but also the countries of the region and the rest of the world.

I wish to make three points.

First, there is a strong call for the cessation of hostilities, and any resumption of fighting must be avoided. For some time now, the United States and Iran have on the whole maintained a ceasefire, but the risk of escalation remains. At this critical stage in the transition from war to peace, all parties must exercise maximum restraint, uphold the ceasefire arrangements, refrain from irresponsible threatening rhetoric and military adventurism and make efforts to prevent a relapse into conflict and the further escalation of tensions. The international community should send a clear and unequivocal message opposing any actions that undermine the ceasefire or escalate confrontation.

Secondly, military solutions offer no way out, and dialogue and negotiation are the only right path forward. The recent ceasefire between the United States and Iran and their efforts to explore resolving issues through negotiation have been welcomed by the countries of the region and the international community. China encourages both sides to stay committed to a political solution and to continue settling their differences and disputes through negotiation, including on the nuclear issue, with a view to reaching a solution that accommodates the concerns of all parties. China commends Pakistan for its mediation efforts and supports all parties in reaching a comprehensive and lasting ceasefire as soon as possible, enabling peace and stability to return to the Middle East and the Gulf region swiftly and laying the foundation for building a sustainable security architecture for the region.

Thirdly, priority should be given to solving pressing issues and preventing the spread of negative effects. The situation in the Strait of Hormuz is a demonstration of the spillover of the conflict. Disruptions to this vital shipping lane have severely affected global supply chains, international trade order and energy security, with countries of the global South bearing significant livelihood costs. China calls for the Strait of Hormuz to be reopened as soon as possible on the basis of the continued ceasefire and believes that the fundamental solution to the stalemate in the Strait lies in achieving a permanent and comprehensive ceasefire. We call on all parties concerned to respond promptly to the calls of the international community by taking proactive measures to restore normal passage through this Strait used for international navigation. We welcome the United Nations initiative to establish a dedicated task force for the Strait of Hormuz and support a greater role being played by the United Nations.

Since the outbreak of the conflict, China has been actively working to end hostilities and promote peace. President Xi Jinping has put forward four propositions on safeguarding and promoting peace and stability in the Middle East. China and Pakistan have issued a five-point initiative for restoring peace and stability in the Gulf and Middle East region. China will continue to stay committed to the spirit of President Xi's four propositions and work with the international community to play a constructive

role in bringing a swift end to hostilities and restoring peace and development in the Middle East.

I resume my functions as President of the Council.

I now give the floor to the representative of the United Arab Emirates.

Mr. Abushahab (United Arab Emirates): I thank the Kingdom of Bahrain for requesting this emergency meeting, and I appreciate the swift response by China as President of the Security Council. I also thank Director General Grossi for his briefing on the heinous attack on the Barakah nuclear power plant in the United Arab Emirates. The role of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in upholding the global safeguards regime is indispensable.

The United Arab Emirates condemns in the strongest terms the unlawful, unprovoked terrorist attack targeting the vicinity of the Barakah nuclear power plant, which resulted in a contained fire at an electrical generator located outside the inner perimeter of the facility. The deliberate targeting of civilian objects is a flagrant violation of international law, and attacks on nuclear facilities devoted to peaceful purposes are particularly egregious. International humanitarian law provides special protections for nuclear facilities because their damage and destruction could have grave consequences: endangering civilian lives, risking radiological contamination, inflicting long-term environmental damage and disrupting essential services — consequences that extend well beyond national borders. The attack on Barakah constitutes a dangerous escalation in an already volatile regional environment and seeks to threaten and undermine the sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of the United Arab Emirates. Threats and attacks of this nature are a red line for the United Arab Emirates, and we reserve our full and inherent right to protect our territory and population, in accordance with international law.

I take this opportunity to underline the strength of the safety and security systems in place at Barakah. The plant was designed and licensed and is operated in accordance with the highest international standards of nuclear safety, security and safeguards. Its multiple layers of protection are intended to ensure the safe and secure production of clean electricity under a wide range of conditions. In this attack, there were no injuries, nor was there radiological release. The Barakah nuclear power plant remains safe, stable and operational, supplying up to 25 per cent of the clean electricity of the United Arab Emirates. This plant produces more than 40 terawatt-hours of energy annually, powering our homes, hospitals and industries. However, the absence of catastrophic consequences should not diminish the gravity of this attack. The United Arab Emirates underscores the importance of the IAEA's seven indispensable pillars for ensuring nuclear safety and security during armed conflict and, in particular, the principle that the physical integrity of nuclear facilities must be preserved at all times and must never be jeopardized.

My Government has confirmed that the drone attacks targeting civilian and critical infrastructure over the past 48 hours, including on the Barakah nuclear power plant, originated from Iraqi territory. This brazen attack is not an isolated incident. Rather, it occurs in a wider regional context in which persistent cross-border attacks by one State and its proxies have pushed the region towards heightened escalation and dangerous confrontation. The region cannot continue to be pulled towards deeper instability by terrorists and extremists, threatening civilians, critical infrastructure, international shipping and now, nuclear safety. The Security Council must ensure that such attacks do not continue with impunity. Failure to act would risk normalizing such attacks and eroding the very principles that the Council is entrusted to uphold. An attack directed at, or in the vicinity of, a peaceful civilian nuclear facility demands a clear, united and consequential response from the Council.

The United Arab Emirates reiterates that peaceful nuclear facilities must never become targets of attack under any circumstances. Protecting such facilities is a shared international responsibility, essential to preserving nuclear safety, security and confidence in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

The meeting rose at 4.20 p.m.