Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency of the First Committee for the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly. We affirm the United Arab Emirates’ support for your presidency, wishing you all the success in the work of this session, and expressing our appreciation to your predecessor, the representative of Spain, in leading the previous session.

The United Arab Emirates would like to associate itself with the statement of the Arab Group delivered by the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine.

Mr. President,

The United Arab Emirates affirms its unwavering stance that intensifying multilateral action is the most successful and effective way to make more progress in addressing all aspects related to
disarmament and international security, especially in light of urgent challenges, such as the Covid-19 pandemic, that has negatively affected the progress achieved during the past years in this area. In this context, the UAE supports all international efforts aimed at achieving our common goal of establishing a world free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. President,

The United Arab Emirates attaches great importance to joining international conventions and instruments concluded in the field of nuclear security and safety. The UAE stresses the need to adhere to these agreements and instruments, with countries adopting an approach based on transparency in the peaceful use of nuclear energy to enhance international peace and security. We also call on countries that have not yet joined the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, especially Annex II states, to take urgent steps to sign and ratify this Treaty to facilitate its entry into force as soon as possible.

On strengthening the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the steps taken towards its universality, the UAE will continue to support all constructive efforts towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. We hope that the forthcoming review session of this treaty will prepare the ground for a constructive dialogue that will achieve the sought progress towards the implementation of the agreed Action Plan for 2010.

We look forward to participating in the second session of the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction, to be held
under the presidency of the State of Kuwait this year, with sincere appreciation to the efforts of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in presiding over the previous session.

Mr. President,

The UAE stresses the pivotal role of the International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards as it provides a reliable mechanism to ensure that nuclear materials and facilities are used for peaceful purposes only. In this context, the UAE concluded a "comprehensive safeguards" agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency, and signed its additional protocol, based on my country’s commitment to the non-proliferation regime. In this regard, we reiterate the call for states with a questioning nature on their nuclear activities to provide the necessary cooperation and actual answers to the IAEA’s inquiries, and to take all required steps to address international concerns related to their nuclear activities to restore confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of their programs.

My country expresses its concern about Iran’s continued development of its nuclear and ballistic missile program. In this context, the UAE joins many other countries demanding and calling upon Iran to fulfill its obligations under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the International Atomic Energy Agency Safeguards Agreement, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and to stop all activities that threaten the global non-proliferation regime.

We also express our concern over the DPRK’s development of its nuclear and missile capabilities, and we urge it to respect its relevant international obligations and cooperate to maintain peace and security on the Korean Peninsula.
With regard to cybersecurity, the UAE stresses the importance of strengthening international cooperation in information security and telecommunications, which is considered one of the fundamental infrastructures in all sectors in international and local institutions. My country welcomes the adoption of the final document of the Open-ended Working Group in March of this year. We look forward to the start of the new group meetings in December.

In conclusion, the UAE expresses its firm belief in the importance of reaching consensus to make progress on outstanding issues related to disarmament and international security, and to adopt an approach that enhances multilateral action under the auspices of the United Nations. We also stress on the importance of ensuring that women and youth have access to the necessary education on issues related to disarmament and international security while seeking to promote their full, equal, and meaningful participation in all relevant decision-making at the local and international levels.

Thank you, Mr. President.