

# *Iran strongly condemns UAE and Israel's claims at IAEA*

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Vienna, September 18 (RHC)-- Iran has denounced “ridiculous” allegations raised at the recent general conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) by the UAE “nuclear newcomers” and the Israeli regime.

“It is quite ridiculous that a regime which has ignored all the non-proliferation and disarmament commitments and developed all kinds of weapons of mass destruction is preaching a member of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) whose nuclear facilities and materials are under the IAEA’s safeguards,” Iran’s permanent representative to international organizations Kazem Gharibabadi said on Wednesday.

“The Zionist regime, with its long history of [adopting] opportunistic policies to deflect attentions from its brutal and inhumane measures against the people of Palestine and other countries in the Middle East, has been one of the main sources of crisis, instability, pain, and anger in the region’s recent history,” he noted on Wednesday.

He called on the international community not to be distracted from the Israeli regime’s atomic weapons program, and said that Tel Aviv must abandon its nukes and join the NPT immediately, putting all its nuclear facilities under the IAEA’s safeguards.

In an address to the 63rd IAEA General Conference, held in Vienna, Austria, the director general of Israel's Atomic Energy Commission claimed that the IAEA needs to show "greater vigilance" considering what he called Iran's "methods of deception and concealment in the nuclear realm."

He also accused Iran of "concealing and removing nuclear materials and equipment from its clandestine sites" and undermining the IAEA's "ability to conduct effective verification missions."

The allegations come as Israel, the sole possessor of nuclear weapons in the Middle East, has a policy of deliberate ambiguity about its nuclear program.

Iran denounced nuke-armed Israel for talking about adherence to non-proliferation principles. In his Wednesday comments, Gharibabadi also downplayed the "irrelevant and groundless" accusations raised by the UAE envoy, and gave assurances that "Iran has utilized the highest standards in building and launching its nuclear facilities."

He said adopting such safety standards requires domestic technical capacities, which "cannot be easily purchased and imported" along with certain equipment. "While the peaceful use of nuclear energy is the undeniable right of all governments ... we strongly advise that regional newcomers to the nuclear field, including the UAE, show maximum transparency and avoid any deviation in their peaceful nuclear program," he added.

"Iran has transparently shown on many occasions, including in the fight against terrorism, that it is the main source of security and stability in the region," Gharibabadi said.

He made the remarks in reaction to comments by Hamad Alkaabi, the permanent representative of the UAE to the IAEA, who called on "the international community to devise a new approach towards addressing concerns and threats of Iran's nuclear and regional activities."

"With regard to the JCPOA, my country calls on Iran to honor its obligations under the IAEA safeguards, the NPT and its commitments under the JCPOA and to fully cooperate with the IAEA to address all concerns related to its nuclear activities, as well as to refrain from actions that could undermine the nonproliferation regime," he said, referring to the Iran nuclear agreement using its abbreviation.

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