

Nestlé S.A.

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Speech by Yves Manghardt, Nestlé Middle East, Chairman and CEO

## **Disclaimer**

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Good morning ladies and gentlemen,

A very warm welcome to each and every one of you present here today.

On behalf of my team, I would like to welcome Mr. Bulcke and Mr. van Dijk to the Middle East region. While on their visit this week, our guests travelled to Lebanon, Syria and Saudi Arabia.

Ladies and gentlemen, as some of you might be aware, Nestlé Middle East, with its headquarters here in Dubai, was established in 1997 to oversee the management of 13 countries around the region, including among others the GCC states, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Palestine and Yemen.

While it may have only been a little over a decade since Nestlé Middle East was formally incorporated, Nestlé's heritage in the region goes back 75 years, to 1934 when the first import operation was set up in Lebanon. Today, many years later, Nestlé Middle East owns and operates 17 factories and 37 offices in the region and provides direct employment to approximately 7,000 people and indirect employment to several thousands more.

It gives me great joy and pride that our group CEO and Zone AOA Director have travelled all the way to Dubai to join us in celebrating another important milestone in the Nestlé Middle East history: the opening of our new manufacturing site.

I am extremely proud that the first new Nestlé confectionery factory built in over a decade is here in Dubai. This investment shows the clear commitment of the Nestlé Group to the expansion of our activities here in the region.

I would now like to hand over to our group CEO Paul Bulcke.