

**Statement by Dr. Manoon Aramrattana,
Deputy Secretary-General,
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Mr. President, Distinguished delegates,

1. The Thai Delegations joins others in congratulating you on your election as the Conference President. We also wish to congratulate the other distinguished members of the Bureau on their election. My Delegations takes this opportunity to welcome Azerbaijan, Tajikistan and Central African Republic as the Agency's new members.

2. Since the last General Conference, there have been major progress and developments in the fields of nuclear non-proliferation, safety-related issues and peaceful uses of nuclear energy which the Agency should be commended for its constructive role. During the 2000 NPT Review Conference, held in New York earlier this year, the vital role of the IAEA in the three main pillars, namely safeguards, safety, and transfer of technology was reaffirmed in unity by all NPT States Parties.

Mr. President,

3. The verification role of the IAEA through its safeguards system is widely recognized as an integral part of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. We would like to express our support for the Strengthened Safeguard System of the IAEA, through its Additional Protocol which would enable the Agency to meet its Safeguards objectives with maximum effectiveness and efficiency. Nevertheless, Thailand believes that the Additional Protocol will be the most effective instrument to enhance the nuclear non-proliferation when it is equitably and universally applied. To this end, measures must be taken in order to assist requesting States to explore and elaborate on the appropriate national legal instruments. This is not only to facilitate their early conclusion of the Additional Protocol but also to ensure full implementation after their conclusion.

4. In this connection, my delegation would like to express the grave concern over the issue of Financing of Safeguards. The decision to end the shielding system will be a major concession of those "shielded" countries for the sake of equitable basis in obligations and commitments by all member states. We can not witness any dramatic changes which require an urgent need for immediate elimination of this

system at the year 2000 and it will be only a matter of transfer of resources among member states. In applying the system for phasing out shielding, first thing that we should remind ourselves is the common but differentiated responsibilities of all member states which was also noted by the NPT Review Conference, while calling upon all States parties to continue their political, technical and financial support for ensuring the Agency's ability to meet its safeguards responsibilities. The indicators for establishing the categories of shielded members should not be based only on the per capita gross national product (PCGNP). Other legitimate indicators such as significant nuclear programmes and activities, nuclear weapon states, and the arrangement for designated seats in the Board under the amended Article 6 of the Statute should also be included as the basis for consideration. Moreover, the frozen categories during the entire period of phasing out of the shielding system will not allow for the re-categorizing of the shielded members with their changing PCGNP according to the adverse effects of the economies.

5. Therefore, the Thai Delegation strongly believes that the mechanism for reviewing the implementation of this new arrangement should be established in order to ensure that there will be a fair treatment for the shielded members. We also would like to reiterate that our major concession should be truly reciprocated in all domains of the Agency's activities. By saying so, we would like our position on this matter to be in the record of this Conference.

Mr. President,

6. Turning to the somewhat related issue, my delegation attaches great importance to Financing of Technical Co-operation with the concern of substantial gap in recent years between the target figure of the TCF and the level of its actual payment. The development and transfer of peaceful nuclear technology through technical co-operation programmes are our country's high priority. We would like to emphasize that the TCF, though voluntary in character, should be treated as a political commitment. The fund needs to be predictable, adequate and assured. Thailand has done her best to pledge and pay her share in full to the TCF every year despite the economic difficulties at home. We, therefore, urge the member states of the IAEA to fulfil their commitments and to make their full contributions to the TCF target. This is to ensure that the IAEA has the financial and human resources necessary to effectively meet its responsibilities in the area of Technical Cooperation. The new proposed mechanism of "Rate of Attainment" is meant to stimulate the flow of resources to TCF and is linked to the issue of Financing of Safeguards during the

consultation. However, it should be noted that there is an incomparable difference between a concession under the obligatory contributions and a stimulating mechanism for voluntary contributions.

Mr. President,

7. In the area of Nuclear Safety, my delegation is of the view that while safety is a national responsibility, international cooperation on all safety-related matters is also indispensable. As a country that recently experienced with the radiological accident, Thailand applauds the Agency's effort in preparing the Code of Conduct on Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources. We also support the implementation of the Action Plan for the safety of radiation sources and the security of radioactive materials which covers 7 significant areas. We believe that to effectively prevent nuclear or radiological accident, there must be an increasing awareness on the nuclear, radiological and waste safety issues, through appropriate public information, training and safety related activities. Despite its tragic aspect, Thailand regards our own accident as a lesson to be shared and learned among the IAEA member states. Therefore, we are now in the process of drafting a report of the said accident in close collaboration with the Agency. The report will be published as part of the series of report on radiological accidents in the various parts of the world. We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to the Government of Japan and to the Agency for their prompt response and assistance rendered to Thailand during the wake of the accident. We were informed that the French authorities were also prepared to help. We appreciate their kind intention to do so.

Mr. President,

8. On the issue on Measure against Illicit Trafficking in Nuclear Materials and Other Radioactive Sources; the Thai delegation is of the view that the issue should be dealt in accordance with the distinction characters of nuclear materials and radioactive sources. While nuclear material, which could also be radioactive, has strong association with NPT regime, the other radioactive sources are associated with safety regime. Each regime has its own preventive measures with different political implications. They should be considered separately in their own resolution. To combine them in one resolution is only to make the issue more complex than necessary. Therefore, the Thai Delegation urges the Agency to strengthen the

preventive measures separately for the NPT regime and the safety regime to minimize possibility of illicit trafficking of nuclear materials and other radioactive sources. Mr. President,

9. This Statement can not be considered completed without a mention of the close cooperation between the SEANWFZ States Parties and the Agency. SEANWFZ is another area where the nations of Southeast Asia can enhance their cooperation with the Agency, and Thailand, as the depositary State of the Treaty of Bangkok establishing the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone, greatly appreciates the Agency's support for our efforts to work towards the common objective of nuclear non-proliferation. Consultations between the SEANWFZ States Parties and the Agency have already taken place on several occasions to identify key issues in the implementation of the Treaty and to seek possible forms of cooperation between ASEAN and the IAEA. The recent ASEAN-IAEA workshop on the Implementation of SEANWFZ Treaty held in Bangkok on 23-25 August 2000 was an important highlight in this regard. On behalf of ASEAN, Thailand would like to express our gratitude to the Agency's support and for the participation of senior Agency staffs as resource persons. The participants at the Workshop reaffirmed the Agency's key role in assisting States Parties in the implementation of the Treaty and the importance of ensuring the effective implementation of the Treaty. In this regard, the participants discussed possible areas of cooperation between the SEANWFZ States Parties and the Agency in many aspects, with respect to the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, safeguards, and nuclear safety.

9. However, despite the progress recorded, the task before us remains enormous. Thailand would like to see continued and enhanced cooperation between the SEANWFZ States Parties and the Agency towards the common goal of nuclear non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament, and technical cooperation. Through our collaboration, Thailand believes that SEANWFZ would contribute to the building of confidence among member States and to the global nuclear non-proliferation regime.

Thank you, Mr. President.