

**Statement by  
H.E. Mr. Arthayudh Srisamoot  
Ambassador and Resident Representative of Thailand  
to the International Atomic Energy Agency,  
Head of the Thai Delegation  
at the 60<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the General Conference of the IAEA  
Vienna International Centre, Vienna  
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**Mr. President,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. At the outset, Thailand wishes to congratulate your Excellency, Ambassador Dato Adnan Othman of Malaysia, upon your election as President of this year's General Conference. I have full trust in your leadership, and assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation through the course of the conference. I also wish to thank Ambassador Filippo Formica of Italy for carrying out his task as President of last year's General Conference in an efficient and constructive manner.

2. I would be remiss not to express appreciation to Director General Yukiya Amano and the IAEA Secretariat for their hard work and dedication over the past year. Indeed, Thailand had the privilege of welcoming DG Amano in August this year. He delivered a keynote address at the International Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology 2016 in Bangkok, and visited our facilities in various fields of nuclear applications. DG Amano also met with the Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the Minister of Science and Technology in order to discuss how to enhance cooperation between Thailand and the IAEA.

3. Thailand also wishes to congratulate Turkmenistan on its admission **as** a new member in 2016, as IAEA marks its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We welcome the applications for membership of Saint Lucia, The Gambia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

4. For 60 years, the Agency has been playing a crucial and evolving role in promoting safe, secure and peaceful uses of nuclear technologies and its applications, as well as enhancing cooperation with and supporting cooperation among Member States in these areas. The Agency's important work has, therefore, greatly contributed to social and economic development of Member States and directly supported the implementation of the SDGs.

5. Allow me now to elaborate on the various issues of priority for Thailand, namely, nuclear safety and security, the Technical Cooperation programme, and nuclear safeguards.

6. **Nuclear safety** must remain high on the national and the international agenda since a nuclear or radioactive incident could have catastrophic and trans-boundary impacts on the environment and livelihood of people. This year marks the fifth anniversary of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident and the thirtieth anniversary of the accident at Chernobyl. These events serve as constant reminders of the real danger and the importance of nuclear safety, particularly at a time when several countries are planning or have already begun or completed the construction of nuclear power plants in order to meet their energy needs.

7. **Nuclear safety and nuclear security** are interrelated and mutually reinforcing issues. Nuclear facilities worldwide are increasingly at risk of cyber and terrorist attacks, among other threats. Therefore, Thailand has devoted considerable efforts and resources to enhance its capability on nuclear safety and security domestically as well as promote cooperation at regional and international levels.

8. At the national level, Thailand adheres strictly to the IAEA guidelines, and our relevant agencies have continuously revised their Standard Operating Procedures. For example, concerning radiation safety standards in nuclear medicine, the Ministry of Public Health has adopted a system to improve the quality of x-ray diagnostic in hospitals, as well as annually audits the hospitals for their radiation safety standards. Thailand has also adopted the National Security Policy, the National Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Plan, and the National Preparedness Strategy, which have taken into consideration the issues of nuclear security and threats of nuclear terrorism.

9. At the regional level, through the framework of ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy (ASEANTOM), of which Thailand is a founding member, Thailand has conducted a number of technical activities concerning nuclear safety and security. For instance, in February 2016, the Office of Atoms for Peace (OAP) held regional workshops on Nuclear Forensics, Environmental Monitoring and Biodosimetry. OAP also plans to organise follow-up regional workshops on Nuclear Forensics, Biodosimetry and Radiation Metrology later this year.

10. Furthermore, as nuclear power has become more appealing as a cost efficient source of energy, we all have to be prepared regardless of whether or not a country has nuclear power plants in its country. Although there are none in Thailand at the moment, our Power Development Plan 2015 includes nuclear power as one option of the energy sources in the future. The Ministry of Energy has, therefore, organized activities to raise awareness and understanding among the public of the use of nuclear energy.

11. Regardless of how widespread or limited the applications of nuclear technologies are, we all must work to ensure nuclear safety and security in all types of nuclear facilities. It is also important to know and understand the risks and trans-boundary impacts of nuclear incidents and to have in place preparedness and response plans at the national and regional levels. Hence,

Thailand Institute of Nuclear Technology initiated the ASEAN Network for Nuclear Power Safety Research (ASEAN2NPSR), which aims at facilitating the cooperation in research and human resource development in the fields related to nuclear safety. This is only one angle of our efforts. More support from the IAEA to assist ASEAN Member States, individually or through regional mechanisms, would help strengthen our national and regional capacity and further promote global nuclear safety and security.

12. At the recent Nuclear Security Summit in Washington D.C., our Prime Minister reaffirmed Thailand's commitment to further enhance nuclear security and efforts to combat nuclear terrorism. Thailand also recognizes an essential role of nuclear education in developing human resources in nuclear-related fields. As such, Chulalongkorn University of Thailand takes the lead in nuclear education in the region. Its department of nuclear engineering is the only place in ASEAN that offers graduate programmes in nuclear security and safeguards.

13. Thailand will continue to firmly support the IAEA's work in enhancing nuclear safety and security worldwide. We greatly appreciate the Agency's role in this regard, including its efforts in pursuing follow-up activities of the 2011 IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety, incorporating valuable lessons learned from the Fukushima Daiichi accident in the Agency's relevant departmental programmes, and organising the IAEA International Conference on Nuclear Security in Vienna in December 2016, at which Thailand will be represented at ministerial level.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**On Technical Cooperation (TC),**

14. I wish to express appreciation for the IAEA's continued support for Thailand's national TC programme. Over the past ten years, Thailand has implemented more than thirty national projects ranging from basic nuclear science to advanced nuclear technology. Our experts also participate in

training courses of the IAEA on a regular basis, and our agencies concerned have received substantial assistance from the Agency, helping Thailand further build up our physical infrastructure and human capacities to maximize the peaceful benefits of nuclear technology in various disciplines, including radiation therapy, nutrition and plant mutation.

15. In response to the Agency's generous contribution, Thailand reiterates its commitment to support the Agency's activities by hosting several IAEA regional meetings, workshops and training courses annually. Thailand also accepts more than twenty fellows and scientific visits proposed by the Agency each year, and stands ready to provide training in many areas to experts from neighboring countries and other IAEA Member States in Asia and the Pacific. Thailand believes that we can serve as a regional hub for technical cooperation in our region, as well as IAEA Collaborating Centres or Centres of Excellence in the areas of our expertise, such as mass-rearing and development of sterile insect technique for fruit flies and isotope hydrology.

16. Considering that the TC programme has yielded great benefits to Member States in a wide range of civilian applications of nuclear technology, Thailand encourages Member States to make contributions to the TC Fund in full and on time. Moreover, Thailand supports the IAEA Peaceful Uses Initiative as a means to fund not only the unfunded TC projects but also new projects that are required to quickly respond to emergency situations such as the spread of the Zika virus and other regional or global emergencies.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**On Nuclear Safeguards,**

17. Thailand commends the Agency's central role in nuclear safeguards in order to strengthen the global nuclear non-proliferation regime, especially its active role on the Iranian and North Korean nuclear issues.

18. Thailand expresses its support to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPoA) and its full and effective implementation. We commend the Agency's role in monitoring and verification in Iran and support the Agency's work in this regard through our contribution to the regular budget. Thailand is of the view that the full and effective implementation of JCPoA will contribute to greater cooperation for regional and international peace and stability.

19. With regard to the DPRK, Thailand is deeply concerned with a series of nuclear and ballistic missile tests conducted by the DPRK, including the most recent nuclear test on 9 September this year. We urge the DPRK to comply with its international obligations under various UNSC resolutions and to cooperate fully and promptly with the IAEA. We also call for the resumption of the Six Party Talks and for all countries concerned to meet the commitments set forth in the Joint Statement of 19 September 2005.

### **Concerning Legal Instrument,**

20. Thailand wishes to reaffirm its commitment to our respective obligations under the Non-Proliferation Treaty and IAEA Statute. The recent passage of Thailand Nuclear Energy Act B.E. 2559 (2016) would enable us to ratify or become Party to remaining legal instruments related to nuclear issues, including Additional Protocol to IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements, Convention of the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials and its Amendment, Comprehensive Nuclear-Weapon-Test Ban Treaty, and International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, of which are vitally important for nuclear safety, security and safeguards.

21. Before closing, Thailand reiterates its commitment to working with the IAEA and the international community in the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear technology, nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Through collective efforts and strong commitments by all Member States, we can achieve and maintain the international peace and security.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

22. With all of the above, Thailand has had productive cooperation with the Agency and witnessed the growing international recognition and contributions of the Agency under the leadership of DG Amano. In this regard, Thailand supports Mr. Amano to serve another term as IAEA Director-General in order to ensure the continuity of leadership and the uninterrupted progress of the IAEA's work.

23. I thank you, Mr. President.

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