

**Statement by
H.E. Dr. Pichet Durongkaveroj,
Minister of Science and Technology of Thailand,
at the Ministerial Segment of
IAEA International Conference on Nuclear Security,
5 December 2016**

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. At the outset, I wish to congratulate the IAEA for its 60th anniversary. Thailand is very pleased to participate in the second IAEA International Conference on Nuclear Security. We thank the Agency for hosting it. Nuclear security continues to remain high on the global agenda.

Mr. President,

2. My delegation also wishes to congratulate you on your assumption of this important role at this Ministerial Segment. We have full trust in your able leadership and will render you our full support and cooperation.
3. Our sincere appreciation also goes to the Republic of Korea and Nigeria in leading the preparation process for the Ministerial Declaration of the Conference in Vienna. Through intensive discussions over the period of ten months and the spirit of cooperation, we have finally arrived at the final draft of the Declaration which contains key issues central to the strengthening of global nuclear security. Thailand endorses this Declaration.

Mr. President,

4. Now, allow me to share my national views on how we can, individually and collectively, enhance nuclear security.
5. First, we must recognize and sufficiently address existing and evolving challenges to nuclear security. Globalization and technological advancement have made the threats of nuclear terrorism, malicious acts involving nuclear material, sabotage and cyber-attacks on nuclear and associated facilities increasingly worrisome and threatening. Yet, with technological progress, strengthened physical security and

enhanced international cooperation, we are better equipped to individually and collectively counter those threats in a more timely and effective manner.

6. Second, Thailand recognizes the interface and mutually reinforcing roles among nuclear security, safety and safeguards. Their pursuit is intended to fulfill and advance the ultimate objective of the safe, secure peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Several measures undertaken to strengthen each of these three areas are, in fact, inter-related and complementary. As a result, considerations on nuclear security, safety and safeguards must be given due emphasis towards the attainment of that objective.
7. Third, while the international community pursues the common goals of nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, which are of an equal weight, Thailand is cognizant of the unique contribution of nuclear security to international peace and security. We share the same view with many delegations, which recognize the link between nuclear security and nuclear disarmament. We can only fully ensure effective nuclear security when nuclear material, particularly weapon usable, and associated facilities, are secure from malicious acts, while nuclear disarmament can further contribute towards that end. To strengthen nuclear security and advance international peace and security, Thailand, therefore, wishes to see substantive progress on nuclear disarmament. We also welcome and support the recent development in the United Nations General Assembly concerning the agenda of taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations. Thailand will continue to play a constructive role in this respect.
8. Fourth, as reiterated in the Ministerial Declaration, responsibility for nuclear security rests entirely with each State. It is imperative that all States put in place adequate national measures and legislations to ensure nuclear security and effective implementation of their respective international obligations.
9. In this regard, Thailand continues to improve our national infrastructure in strengthening the security of nuclear and radioactive material. I am pleased to inform that, on 5 August this year, the Nuclear Energy for Peace Act was promulgated and will be fully in force on 1 February 2017. In preparation for its enforcement, the Office of Atoms for Peace of Thailand under the Ministry of Science and Technology has been working on draft regulations in support of the Act. With new and amended provisions in line with obligations under relevant international instruments, the Act focuses on not only security but also safety and

safeguards aspects of nuclear technology. Upon its entry into force, Thailand would be able to better join the remaining international instruments concerning nuclear security and other nuclear-related areas in due time.

10. In addition, earlier this year, our national Atomic Energy for Peace Commission approved the Regulation on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Nuclear Facilities, as well as the draft Act on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, in order to comply with IAEA's INFCIRC 225/Revision 5 - Nuclear Security Series No. 13.
11. Fifth, it is important to ensure physical protection and effective control of all nuclear material in all types of facilities and at all times, including nuclear material used for non-civilian purposes which constitutes the majority of nuclear material in the world¹. Thailand welcomes the information released by some States on their policies to ensure the security of such material, and encourages further voluntary measures in this field.
12. Sixth, Thailand recognizes that the effectiveness of the nuclear security regime in one State also depends on the effectiveness of the nuclear security regime in other States. Therefore, we see the need to further deepen bilateral, regional, and international cooperation to enhance the global nuclear security regime. Thailand commends the Agency for its central role in coordinating international cooperation in this regard, as well as providing assistance to Member States, upon request, particularly in the areas of capacity building and enhancing national and regional nuclear security infrastructure.
13. Moreover, Thailand is of the view that cooperation with other relevant international organizations and regional initiatives should be further promoted. Such cooperation would create synergies for more effective management of technical and financial resources concerning nuclear security.
14. An example of note is the joint cross-border exercise between Thailand and Malaysia on the detection of nuclear and other radioactive material out of regulatory control, which was held during 24-28 October 2016. The exercise was aimed at

¹ Nuclear material for military or non-civilian purposes constitutes for over 80% of nuclear material in the world.
(Source: Deepti Choubey: Towards Disarmament Securely (The Foreign Policy Institute, 2015))

enhancing capacity of and strengthening cooperation among concerned officials of both countries in a joint effort for response to incidents involving radiological or special nuclear material out of regulatory control through smuggling or illicit transporting across the border for illegally intended purposes.

15. Additionally, in our sub-region, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations or ASEAN is striving to enhance its efforts in strengthening regional nuclear safety, security and safeguards in accordance with IAEA standards and guidelines, through the network of nuclear regulatory bodies of Member States or ASEANTOM. During the 60th Session of the IAEA General Conference this September, representatives of all ASEAN Member States had a fruitful discussion with the IAEA officials on how to deepen the ASEAN-IAEA cooperation.
16. With the Agency's support, ASEAN can do more and with a higher standard. With regard to Thailand's contribution, for instance, we were pleased to host a regional workshop on nuclear forensics in February this year, which has benefited policy makers and experts in nuclear forensics and biodosimetry from ASEAN Member States, as well as helped lay groundwork for networking and cooperation within ASEAN. Thailand is planning to host a follow-up one next year as a part of the ASEAN Next 2017. In light of the aforementioned cooperation, I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Agency for its continued support to Thailand and ASEAN, particularly in providing experts and other necessary assistances. We also look forward to working with IAEA towards establishing an IAEA Collaborating Centre in Thailand offering best practices sharing to ASEAN Members in areas such as agriculture and water management including sterile insect technique and isotope hydrology.
17. Lastly, public education and engagement with all relevant stakeholders are key. Nuclear security threats are real and their impacts could have wide ramifications. It is everyone's business. With the society having a better understanding of nuclear security, the government can effectively mobilize broad-based support and promote collective actions in strengthening nuclear security. As a result, my government has placed great emphasis on reaching out to and working with all domestic stakeholders – including industries, nuclear-related institutions and facilities, medical and public health facilities, academic and the general public – in order to effectively prepare for and cope with potential risks of nuclear incidents as well as to effectively implement coordinated response measures.

Mr. President,

18. In closing, I wish to reaffirm Thailand's commitment to supporting the Agency's role in this regard as well as working constructively with all partners in further enhancing nuclear security worldwide.
