

**Thailand's Statement by
Ms. Thitiporn Chirasawadi,
Minister and Chargé d' Affaires ad interim,
Permanent Mission of Thailand in Vienna,
at the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology,
28-30 November 2018**

Madam / Mr. President,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Thailand is pleased to participate in this inaugural Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology. My delegation congratulates the Co-Presidents on your assumption of this important role. We have full trust in your leadership and render you our full support.
2. Nuclear science and technology have significantly contributed to socio-economic development at the national level and to global efforts towards the realization of the SDGs. To that end, the IAEA has played a central role in the dissemination of knowledge to and building capacity of its Member States in the peaceful utilization of nuclear technology, particularly through the Agency's Technical Cooperation Programme.
3. Nuclear science and applications are all around us. They are involved, with varying degrees, in the food we eat, consumer products we use, medical treatments we receive, and even jewellery we wear. But the public may not fully realize this fact. National governments should make greater efforts in forging greater public understanding of the benefits of nuclear technology. This would not only help enhance public acceptance, but also increase public support for governmental policies and undertakings related to nuclear science and technology.

Madam / Mr. President,

4. In Thailand, nuclear science and applications have featured fairly importantly in our country's national economic policy or the so-called Thailand 4.0, where science, technology and innovation are a major driving force of our economy. Our business community is also keen to further utilize nuclear technology in enhancing its productivity and competitiveness while ensuring sustainability. In this respect, early last month, Thailand Management Association, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, organized the "*Global Business Dialogue: Innovating for a Sustainable Future*" in Bangkok, Thailand, where Director of the IAEA Division of Physical and Chemical Sciences attended as a speaker. We thank the Agency for its support.

5. Collaboration through research, training, technology transfer as well as sharing and exchange of innovative techniques are essential in advancing nuclear science. Thailand values its cooperation with the Agency and other partners in this regard. Our relevant institutions and experts have participated in various Coordinated Research Projects of the Agency. Moreover, we are very pleased that the Agency has decided to designate Thailand Institute of Nuclear Technology as an IAEA Coordinating Centre in the area of water resources assessment and management. We look forward to an early conclusion of the agreement with the Agency in this respect and to forging further collaboration with the Agency in other fields.

6. My delegation is also satisfied with the progress of the ReNuAL and ReNuAL+ project that aims to modernize the IAEA nuclear applications laboratory, which has provided valuable support and training to Member States over the years. Thailand is proud to be a donor to this crucial project.

Madam / Mr. President,

7. I would be remiss not to stress the significance of the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme or TCP. The TCP is the major vehicle of the Agency in delivering its services to Member States, particularly in nuclear science and applications. The TCP cannot be successful if it is not well planned, managed and resourced. Thailand is a strong advocate of the TCP. We are committed to contribute to the TC Fund in full and on time and encourage others to do the same.

8. Before closing, I would like to join others in underlining the importance of equal opportunities for every gender. Nuclear science and technology are an open business for all. To equally attract women and men to get involved in nuclear science and applications is our common objective. Achieving it will be a victory not only for the nuclear discipline but for humanity. Thailand affirms its determination to promote gender equality in nuclear.

9. With these remarks, my delegation endorses the Ministerial Declaration of this Conference and looks forward to a follow-up to this Conference in the coming years. I thank you for your attention.
