

Statement by
H.E. Ms. Morakot Sriswasdi
Ambassador and Resident Representative of Thailand
at the 63rd Regular Session of the General Conference of the IAEA

Madam President,
Excellencies,
Distinguish delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. At the outset, allow me to convey to you, Madam President, my congratulations on your election as the President of the Conference. I sincerely believe that your guidance and able leadership will bring the Conference to a successful outcome. Please rest assured of my delegation's full support and cooperation.

2. I wish to begin by joining the previous speakers in conveying my delegation's deepest condolences on the passing of Director-General Amano last July. This is the moment of a great loss for the Agency and the international community. His dedication and unwavering passion to strengthen the peaceful use of atomic energy worldwide has been a hallmark of his tenure at the Agency. We hope that his vision and legacy will be honoured and continued forward.

Madam President,

3. In light of the current geopolitical landscape and the mixed blessings from rapid advancements in science and technology, the role of the Agency in promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and in contributing to strengthen global peace and security are even more in demand and crucial than ever. Thailand commends the Agency for effectively stepping up to these challenges in a professional and balanced manner.

4. Among the Agency's important tasks are the verification and monitoring mandates on Iran's nuclear-related commitments under the JCPOA. Thailand once again reiterates our support for the preservation of this Agreement, while calling on Iran to return to full compliance and ensuring the necessary means for the Agency to effectively carry out its mandate. In the same vein, Thailand calls on all parties concerned to work constructively together and in good faith, to address this issue.

5. On DPRK, Thailand welcomes the efforts made to engage in dialogue by all parties, which constitute positive and constructive progress in the Korean Peninsula. Thailand hopes that the good undertakings will continue on in good faith and deliver tangible outcomes towards a denuclearised Korean Peninsula. Thailand also appreciates the Agency's readiness to return to the DPRK on its verification mandate, once the political solution is achieved.

6. Thailand also wishes to underscore the importance of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), which is now making good progress towards its entry into force. The Treaty works to complement and reinforce the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation efforts under the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), contributing to the implementation of Article VI of the NPT. The Agency will also play an instrumental part in the implementation of the TPNW, once it enters into force.

Madam President,

7. Thailand is committed to enhancing our cooperation with the Agency to ensure the safe, secure and peaceful uses and applications of nuclear technology. That being said, the pursuit of peaceful uses of nuclear energy must be accompanied by vigilant nuclear safeguards, safety and security regimes. Thailand continuously strives to ensure that our domestic implementation is in line with international standards and commitments under the multilateral instruments that we are party to.

8. This past May, Thailand ratified the International Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT). We also submitted our first national report under the Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS), following our accession in February 2018. In addition, we concluded with the Agency the Practical Arrangements on Cooperation in the Area of Nuclear Forensic Science and are now finalizing the Practical Arrangements on Voluntary Exchange and Visualization of Routine Radiation Monitoring Data on the International Radiation Monitoring Information System (IRMIS). These developments reflect our commitment in meeting international obligations and serve as basis for Thailand to extend our assistance and cooperation to interested countries in the region.

9. On the technical cooperation front, Thailand values our close-knitted relationship with the Agency, particularly through the Technical Cooperation Programme. The TC Programme is a vital platform for building and enhancing capacities while contributing to socio-economic development and progress towards

SDGs realization. Throughout 2018-2019, Thailand hosted various projects under TC umbrella, covering multi-faceted areas under the Agency's responsibilities, ranging from nuclear medicine to food safety and radiation technology. In this regards, Thailand remains committed to pay our share in full to the Technical Cooperation Funds, as pledged earlier this week. We look forward to continuing this good collaboration with the Agency and stand ready to touch base with our regional partners to move forward with useful cooperation in this regard.

Madam President,

10. As this year's Chair of ASEAN, Thailand welcomes the signing of the Practical Arrangements between ASEAN and the Agency on Cooperation in the Areas of Nuclear Science and Technology and Applications, Nuclear Safety, Security, and Safeguards, held at the margin of the year's Conference. The Agreement showcases ASEAN's strong willingness and determination to enhance our partnership with the Agency on the nuclear for peace agenda. We also appreciate the support of the Agency at the 6th ASEANTOM Meeting held in Thailand this past July and hope that ASEAN-IAEA cooperation will be further explored and strengthened on the areas of mutual interests.

Madam President,

11. As a member of the Agency's Board of Governors, we wish to convey our appreciation to H.E Ambassador Leena Al-Hadid of Jordan, the Chairperson of the Board of Governors, for her leadership and dedication in bringing the solution to the challenges throughout her chairmanship. We also recognised the constructive role of H.E. Ambassador Maria Assunta Accili Sabatini of Italy for finding the compromised solution to the long overdue issue of dual-mechanism account. In the spirit of Vienna, Thailand will continue to work closely and constructively with other Board members and partners in advancing the work of the Agency.

12. In closing, Thailand wishes to reaffirm our commitments to the Agency's statute and respective obligations under the NPT. We are determined to support the Agency in its deliberation and engage with member states to ensure the continued progress of the Agency's work in all aspects.

I thank you, Madam President.