

**Statement by
H.E. Ms. Morakot Sriswasdi
Ambassador and Resident Representative of Thailand
at the 66th Regular Session of the General Conference of the IAEA
27 September 2022**

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Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. At the outset, I wish to congratulate you, Ambassador Cortese, on your election as the President of the Conference. We trust that this year's Conference will conclude successfully under your able leadership and guidance. Please rest assured of my delegation's full support.

2. I also wish to express my gratitude to His Excellency Ambassador Sadiq M. Marafi of Kuwait, the President of GC65, and the office of the President for their efforts and hard work during the previous session of the Conference.

Mr. President,

3. The current geopolitical landscape and the heightened tension on the political and security fronts have made the central role of the Agency in strengthening the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and safeguarding the non-proliferation regime become even more prominent and relevant. Against this backdrop, Thailand fully supports the Agency in discharging its mandates to promote the peaceful uses agenda and to ensure strict adherence to nuclear safety, security and safeguards obligations, which are instrumental to the maintenance of international peace and security.

4. On the JCPOA, Thailand appreciates the Director General and the Agency in carrying out the verification and monitoring mandates and supports the Agency to continue performing such mandates in a professional, impartial, and objective manner. The restoration of the JCPOA is a matter of utmost urgency. Thailand commends the constructive efforts of all parties involved in the Vienna negotiations and encourages all parties to continue the diplomatic engagement with a view towards the resolution of all outstanding issues and the full resumption of the Agreement.

5. On the DPRK, Thailand commends the Agency's continued efforts to monitor the DPRK's nuclear program while maintaining its readiness to resume its verification mandates once diplomatic solutions are reached. Thailand reiterates our calls on the DPRK to comply fully with relevant UN Security Council resolutions and avoid taking further actions that may escalate tensions in the region.

6. On the situation in Ukraine, Thailand wishes to underscore the paramount importance of preserving the safety and security of all nuclear facilities established and operated for peaceful purposes. Thailand supports the Director General and the Agency in the execution of its mandates to ensure that the principles of safety and security at the Ukraine's nuclear facilities are upheld and the relevant safeguards obligations are fully implemented by all parties concerned.

7. On the development of naval nuclear propulsion, Thailand wishes to reiterate that any activities that may set safeguards-related precedents and give rise to proliferation concerns are undertaken with due consideration and in a transparent manner, taking into account respective obligations under the legal instruments the parties subscribed to. Thailand also takes note of the close consultation between the Agency and all parties concerned and supports the Agency's to continue its engagement with relevant parties in this regard.

Mr. President,

8. The IAEA's role in the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology for development remains vital. Thailand commends the Agency's initiatives in applying nuclear science and technology to address global challenges and striving towards the achievement of the SDGs. Among these initiatives, the "Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action (ZODIAC)" helps us fight against the pandemic, "Rays of Hope" helps us with the better treatment for the non-communicable disease, and the "NUTEC Plastic" helps us cope with one of today's most pressing global environmental challenges.

9. Thailand supports the Agency's Technical Cooperation Programme as an essential mechanism for Member States to build their needed capacity and expertise, including those under the Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology for Asia and the Pacific (RCA), which celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. Together with the Agency, Thailand is proud to be the host country of several regional training courses this year.

10. Thailand recognizes that regional nuclear frameworks, including ASEANTOM, play significant part in contributing towards ensuring nuclear safety, security and safeguards in the region. We welcome the endorsement of the ASEAN Protocol for Preparedness and Response to a Nuclear or Radiological Emergency and the progress of the implementation of the Practical Arrangements between ASEAN and the IAEA on Cooperation in the Areas of Nuclear Science and Technology and Applications, Nuclear Safety, Security and Safeguards.

11. To further promote cooperation between the IAEA and Member States, Thailand supports new initiatives including the Sustained Dialogue for Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology. We also underscore the importance of promoting awareness of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, with a view to work in partnership with development agencies, international and regional financial institutions as well as research and academic institutions.

Mr. President,

12. Thailand reaffirms its commitment to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and underscores the Agency's central role in strengthening global nuclear-non-proliferation regime, promoting peaceful uses and discharging its safeguards mandates under the NPT. We are disappointed that once again the NPT Review Conference was unable to conclude with a consensual agreement on an outcome document. We call upon all States Parties to redouble their efforts and work together to ensure that the next review cycle, which begins next year, delivers tangible progress in fulfilling the long-overdue commitments under the Treaty.

13. Thailand welcomes the successful conclusion of the First Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) held in June this year in Vienna, with the adoption of the Vienna Declaration and the Action Plan. We wish to emphasize the complementarity nature between the TPNW and the existing disarmament and non-proliferation regime, including the treaties establishing the nuclear weapon-free zone. Thailand believes that TPNW provides a new approach to nuclear disarmament and is well-positioned to advance the implementation of the NPT's Article VI. We stand ready to work towards engaging and building a cooperation-based relationship with all parties to advance our shared goal of a world free of nuclear weapons.

14. Thailand welcomes the successful outcomes of the 2022 Conference of Parties to the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management. We also look forward to participating in the Joint Eighth and Ninth Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety to be held in March 2023 in Vienna.

Mr. President,

15. In closing, Thailand wishes to reaffirm its steadfast commitment to the obligations under the Agency's framework. We firmly support the Agency in its deliberation and stand ready to engage and cooperate constructively with the Agency and Member States to advance our goals and objectives stipulated in the Statute.

Thank you.