

**Thailand's Statement by  
Dr. Atchara Wongsangchan,  
Secretary-General,  
Office of Atoms for Peace,  
at the 61<sup>st</sup> Regular Session of the General Conference of the IAEA,  
Vienna International Centre,  
Wednesday, 20 September 2017**

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**Madame President,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. Allow me first to express my sincere congratulations to you, Ambassador Maria Zeneida Angara Collinson of the Philippines, on your election as the President of the Conference. I am very pleased to see our able female ASEAN colleague to chair this important meeting. I am confident that under your leadership the Conference will arrive at a successful conclusion, and wish to assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation.
  
2. I also wish to express deep appreciation to Ambassador Dato Adnan Othman of Malaysia for his efforts in successfully carrying out his task as the President of the previous session of the Conference.
  
3. Thailand would also like to congratulate Mr. Yukiya Amano for his re-appointment as IAEA Director-General for the third term. His dedication during the past eight years, along with the tireless efforts of the Secretariat, has resulted in the satisfactory progress of the work of the Agency. Additionally, Thailand warmly welcomes Grenada as a new member of the Agency.

Madame President,

4. Over the past 60 years, IAEA has played a crucial role in strengthening global peace and security as well as promoting peaceful applications of nuclear technology. Today the **Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons** will be opened for signature in New York. The Treaty constitutes an important step toward ridding the world of nuclear weapons, reinforcing the implementation of Article 6 of the NPT. Upon its entry into force, the Agency will have an important role to contribute to the success of the new Treaty. Thailand supports this Treaty and urges other Member States to do the same.

5. On the issue of **DPRK**, Thailand joins the international community in expressing its grave concern with the recent disturbing developments on the Korean Peninsula. We call upon the DPRK to immediately cease its nuclear weapon and missile programmes and call for the strict and full implementation of all relevant UNSC resolutions.

6. On the **Iranian nuclear program**, we fully support the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action or **JCPOA**, and urge all parties concerned to implement it in good faith.

Madame President,

7. It is evident that the Agency's work has made positive contributions to the attainment of **SDGs** in Member States. Thailand highly values these contributions and appreciates its constructive cooperation with the Agency in this regard, particularly through the Agency's Technical Cooperation Programme. We look forward to working closely with the Agency with a view to maximizing the benefits of peaceful nuclear technology and applications in achieving the SDGs.

8. On 31 May this year during the International Conference on the IAEA TC Programme, Thailand was pleased to sign with the Agency the **Agreement concerning the Hosting of IAEA Activities in the Kingdom of Thailand**. This Agreement has helped facilitate the smooth conduct of IAEA meetings and activities in Thailand.

9. The spin-off effect of this Agreement will also benefit our friends in the region. We are in a better position to serve as an IAEA regional training center and IAEA Collaborating Centers in certain fields of our expertise. We hope to provide strong support to regional initiatives on all nuclear-related matters.

Madame President,

10. This March, Thailand, together with six other ASEAN countries, has established the **ASEAN Network for Nuclear Power Safety Research** with the aim of promoting research and development to support future nuclear power programmes in the Southeast Asia region.

11. In addition, within the existing framework of the ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy or **ASEANTOM**, Thailand has continued to contribute to regional capacity building. Also in March this year, Thailand was pleased to host the “Workshop on Capacity and Strengthening the Nuclear and Radiation Safety and Security Network in ASEAN Region”.

12. We appreciate the Agency’s continued assistance and cooperation with ASEAN and welcome the Agency’s support and participation in the 4<sup>th</sup> ASEANTOM Meeting to be held this December in the Philippines. Thailand looks forward to the establishment of a **formal partnership between ASEAN and the IAEA** to promote greater and more comprehensive cooperation in the areas of common interest.

13. We are also grateful for the cooperation and assistance extended to Thailand and our region from other partners and institutions, including the European Union, some national governments, and the World Institute for Nuclear Security, to name a few.

Madame President,

14. Thailand has never shied away from its international commitments. The entry into force this February of our new **Nuclear Energy for Peace Act** has significantly paved the way for our joining of the remaining nuclear-related international instruments in a speedy manner.

15. In closing, Thailand wishes to reaffirm its commitments under the NPT and in accordance with the Agency's Statute and to work constructively with the Agency and all partners to ensure safe, secure, and peaceful uses of nuclear technology worldwide. I thank you for your kind attention.

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