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**Statement by  
H.E. Mr. Songsak Saicheua,  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand to  
the United Nations and other International Organizations  
in Vienna,**

**at the General Debate,  
the First Session of the Preparatory Committee for  
the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on  
the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,**

**2 May 2017, Vienna**

**Mr. Chair,**

1. As this is the first time Thailand is taking the floor, allow me to join other delegations in congratulating you on your assumption as the Chair of the First Session of the Preparatory Committee of the 2020 NPT Review Conference. My congratulations also go to other members of the Bureau. I am confident that under your able leadership and guidance, this meeting will certainly result in a successful conclusion which will positively contribute towards the 2020 Review Conference. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Kim Won Soo for his tireless efforts to disarmament and congratulate Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu on her appointment as the new Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs. I assure you of the full support of my delegation.
2. Thailand also wishes to associate itself with the statement made by the distinguished delegate of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).
3. As the only treaty which addresses the three equally important issues of nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, Thailand would like to reemphasize that the NPT remains the cornerstone of the multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation regime. We support the universal adherence of the NPT and strengthening of all its three mutually reinforcing pillars, which should be equally addressed in a balanced manner.

**Mr. Chair,**

4. Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation are shared global responsibilities of all countries. Thailand welcomes all progress to break the impasse and create positive momentum to push the agenda forward. Amidst continuing call from the international community for the prompt and effective implementation in good faith of Article VI, Thailand welcomes and has participated in the United Nations conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination. Thailand encourages the constructive participation of all stakeholders in an inclusive manner. We also appreciate the efforts made on banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other explosive devices, marked by the convening of a high level fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT) expert preparatory group earlier in March.
5. Cooperation amongst different nuclear-weapon-free zones, encompassing 115 countries, is an important confidence building measure and contributes significantly to the strengthening of the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime as stipulated in Article VII of the NPT. As an active proponent and the depositary state of the Bangkok Treaty, which established

the South East Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ), Thailand supports the establishment of nuclear weapon-free zones in all other regions. We welcome progress made by the States Parties and the nuclear-weapon States towards the signing of the Protocol to the SEANWFZ, which will enhance the effectiveness of the agreement at the regional and the global levels. Thailand would also like to urge all parties concerned to fully support the early discussions on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction as mandated by the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

6. Closer to home, we are gravely concerned with the DPRK's nuclear weapon and ballistic missile programs as well as the growing tension on the Korean Peninsula. Thailand calls for the effective implementation of all relevant UNSC resolutions, and discourages any further provocative and destabilizing actions in Northeast Asia. We unequivocally support political and diplomatic means to resolve this issue peacefully. We also fully subscribe to ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Statement on the situation in the Korean Peninsula on 28 April 2017.

**Mr. Chair,**

7. The inalienable right of States Parties to develop and use nuclear energy in a safe, secure, and peaceful manner in accordance with obligations under Article IV as well as other relevant provisions of the Treaty is well recognized and must be respected by all States Parties to the NPT. We also recognize the responsibilities that come with that right as we continue our endeavour to enhance nuclear safety, security, and safeguards at the national, regional, and international levels.
8. Verifiable and efficient safeguards are important for both nuclear-weapons and non-nuclear-weapon States to ensure that nuclear technology will be used exclusively for peaceful purposes. We welcome transparency and confidence building measures by nuclear-weapon States concerning their nuclear stockpiles as a part of nuclear disarmament process, and encourage additional efforts in this regard. As the key mechanism in this regime, the IAEA should also be empowered to further strengthen its role in nuclear safeguards and verification.
9. For Thailand, we value and appreciate the collaboration with the IAEA in technical cooperation programme, and will continue to cooperate closely with the IAEA to promote and utilise nuclear technology for peaceful purposes to help increase prosperity for all.

**Mr. Chair,**

10. Emerging security challenges and uncertainties in international politics have brought us to a critical juncture where commitment and cooperation on disarmament and international security are ever more important. For many decades, the NPT has been helping to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament. However, in principle, having one nuclear arsenal is having one too many. As long as a nuclear warhead exists, the entire human race and all lives on the planet will never be free from the risk of indiscriminate and devastating effect of nuclear weapons. With strong political will and practical undertakings, together we can achieve a lot more.
11. NPT States Parties should remain committed to the Treaty. Withdrawal should be allowed only in extraordinary circumstances and with strict conditions. The lack of outcomes and the lack of progress in the implementation of the outcomes of the previous NPT Review Conferences have affected the relevance, credibility, and sanctity of the NPT. The agreed outcomes of the previous NPT Review Conferences should provide solid groundwork for us to build on to ensure the success of the 2020 NPT Review Conference. We should learn from the experience of 2015 Review Conference and not only aim for *any* consensus outcome document, but a substantive, meaningful, comprehensive and actionable one that will actually bring changes for the betterment of us all.
12. At the same time, it is also important to involve every State possessing nuclear weapons that falls outside the ambit of NPT in disarmament and non-proliferation discussions through various possible channels such as IAEA programmes, Nuclear Security Contact Group and other initiatives, UNSCR1540, and other outreach efforts.
13. In support of the NPT process, we wish to underscore the importance of promoting awareness and understanding of the issues at hand, including education for younger generation. This is crucial not only for decision makers, but also the general public. The message is not only to illustrate the danger of nuclear weapons and their catastrophic humanitarian consequences, but also to correct misconceptions and fears concerning the application of peaceful nuclear technology.
14. In this regard, Thailand would also like to acknowledge and highlight the contributions of civil society and the academia in mobilizing public support and shaping public perception. We would like to encourage continued participation of these sectors of society who have already done much to get us where we are today.

15. In closing, Thailand remains hopeful that we will be able to produce substantive progress and encourages all States Parties work in good faith, with the spirit of flexibility and mutual respect, in order to realise our common aspiration of a peaceful and safer world free of nuclear weapons. I thank you, Mr. Chair.

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