

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Songsak Saicheua,
Ambassador and Resident Representative,
at the 62nd Regular Session of the General Conference of the IAEA,
Vienna International Centre,
20 September 2018**

Madame President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. At the outset, I wish to fervently congratulate you, Madame President, on your assumption as the President of the Conference. With your experience and expertise, I am certain that you will guide us towards a successful Conference. Please rest assured of my delegation's full support in your work.

2. My deep appreciation also goes to the President of the 61st GC, the earnest Ambassadors of the Philippines to the IAEA, as well as Director-General Amano and the Secretariat for their dedicated work over the past year.

Madame President,

3. Over sixty years since its establishment, the IAEA remains a strong pillar in the support and maintenance of international peace and security. The Agency's advocacy of the peaceful usage of nuclear technology also contributes greatly to socio-economic development and the enhancement of human welfare.

4. We recognize the challenges in the monitoring and verification work of the Agency in the years ahead. Bearing this in mind,

5. On Iran, Thailand supports the preservation of the JCPOA, as it demonstrates the diplomatic achievement in resolving a difficult nuclear non-proliferation issue. We also commend the Agency's inherent role in monitoring and verification in accordance with the JCPOA.

6. On the DPRK, Thailand welcomes the positive development on the Korean Peninsula and encourages all parties concerned to continue their diplomatic efforts and constructive dialogue to ensure an eventual, complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of the Peninsula.

Madame President,

7. During the course of the year, Thailand has made remarkable progress in meeting our international obligations and commitments. In 2018, we ratified and acceded to the **Amended CPPNM, the CNS and the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management**. Moreover, upon the ratification of the **AP** in November 2017, we received the first IAEA inspector on a complementary-access visit, demonstrating Thailand's readiness and full cooperation as well as transparency in our nuclear activities.

8. On the nuclear security front, Thailand approved an **Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan (INSSP)** with the Agency this April. We are also working towards the conclusion of the **Practical Arrangement on Nuclear Forensics** with the Agency. This would serve as a basis for Thailand to extend assistance and cooperation to interested countries in the region.

Madame President,

9. Nuclear applications are an essential part in our national development programs, aiming at improving quality of life and general well-being of people and the environment. We therefore appreciate the Agency's trust in designating the Thailand Institute of Nuclear Technology as an **IAEA Collaborating Center on water resources assessment and management** and

look forward to forging further collaboration with the Agency in other areas.

10. Thailand's close relationship with the Agency, particularly through the Technical Cooperation Programme, is highly valued. Not just a recipient, we have also done our part by hosting 19 IAEA capacity-building activities in 2018, which cover various topics such as sterile insect technique, cancer control, nuclear safety and radiation technology.

Madame President,

11. Regional and sub-regional cooperation is key to advancing the Agency's developmental work. Thailand stands ready to work with the Agency in supporting our immediate neighbours in peaceful uses of nuclear technology through **trilateral cooperation**. We are determined to share our know-how and expertise, and look forward to further cementing such cooperation.

12. On assuming the Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2019, Thailand expresses our willingness to work closely with the Agency in further enhancing ASEAN-IAEA cooperation. We look forward to the formalization of the ASEAN-IAEA relations where ASEANTOM will play an instrumental role.

Madame President,

13. Before concluding, I wish to underscore Thailand's firm commitment to fulfilling the obligations under the IAEA Statute and the NPT. We will continue to work closely and constructively with the Secretariat, other Member States and partners towards nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

14. It is important to note that this week is the first anniversary of the opening for signature of the Treaty on the Prohibition of

Nuclear Weapons, which is a testament of our endeavors towards a world free of nuclear weapons. The Treaty has our strong support and we look forward to its early entry into force. We also believe that the IAEA will play a significant role in the Treaty's implementation once it is enforced.

Madame President,

15. In closing, Thailand expresses our sincere appreciation to the members of the Southeast Asia and the Pacific Group in nominating us to serve on the Board of Governors for 2018-2020. We are ready and determined to take up this responsibility to ensure the continued progress of the Agency's work.

I thank for your kind attention.
