Statement

by

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to the First Meeting of the Preparatory Committee

of the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties

to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT),

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Please Check Against Delivery
Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, let me join other distinguished delegates in extending my sincere congratulations to you on your election as Chairman of the First Meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). I am confident that under your able chairmanship, we will get the Preparatory Committee process off to a good start and lay a firm foundation for the important Review Conference in 2005.

I should like to associate myself with the statement made yesterday by the distinguished Permanent Representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) States Parties to the NPT.

Mr. Chairman,

We are participating once again in the preparatory process of a Treaty that has been and remains at the heart of the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. The importance of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in ensuring some measure of global stability and human security vis-à-vis nuclear weapons cannot be emphasized enough. We dare not imagine a world without the NPT.

But we are meeting today under circumstances where the NPT regime is faced with numerous challenges.

Since the 2000 Review Conference, there has been a gradual and progressive erosion of multilateralism in general and of multilateral disarmament regimes, including those dealing with nuclear weapons. We are concerned with and are opposed to unilateralism and other developments that threaten the effectiveness and viability of multilateral disarmament regimes.

The loss in momentum in the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) process, despite the increase in the number of new accessions and the collective efforts of participating States at the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the CTBT last November, is a cause of great concern. In light of this, we renew our appeal to all the States listed in Annex 2 of the CTBT, particularly the Nuclear Weapon States, that have not signed and ratified the Treaty, to do so at the earliest possible moment so that the Treaty can come into force without delay.

Furthermore, the tragic events of September 11 have brought into sharper focus our common vulnerability to acts of international terrorism and serves to rekindle fear from the threat of nuclear terrorism and access of non-state actors to such technology and materials, the consequences of which would have been calamitous. We have also yet to see significant progress on the part of Nuclear Weapons States (NWS) in the reduction of nuclear weapons or changes in nuclear strategies that would pave the way for enhanced global and regional security from the threat of nuclear weapons.

My delegation thus hopes that we will all recognize the precariousness of the present situation and re-double our efforts to reinvigorate the NPT process and to strengthen multilateral disarmament regimes. We look forward to a meaningful discussion, covering both procedural and
substantive matters, at this First Meeting of the Preparatory Committee to generate momentum in the NPT process, culminating in a substantive outcome with practical measures to promote even further nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation at the 2005 Review Conference. It is to this end that my delegation pledges its full cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,

Thailand is a staunch supporter of the NPT and, as a Non-Nuclear Weapon State (NNWS), has adhered strictly to the policy of not using, developing, seeking, accumulating and disseminating nuclear weapons in accordance with its Treaty obligations. Our concrete measures reflecting our commitment to the objectives of the NPT are enumerated in detail in Thailand’s report on the implementation of Article VI and Paragraph 4.c of the 1995 Decision on “Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament” that we have already submitted and appears as documents NPT/CONF.2005/PC.1/5 and Add. 1.

Our policy measures operate in tandem with our efforts at the regional level. As a depository State of the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) Treaty, Thailand is working closely and actively with the member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), all of whom are party to the Treaty, to ensure that the region is free from nuclear weapons and the threat thereof. We see the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free-zones, including SEANWFZ, as an important step towards attaining the objective of global nuclear disarmament. To enhance the significance and effectiveness of SEANWFZ, the Treaty Parties have engaged in a sustained dialogue with all five Nuclear Weapon States in order to get their support to the Treaty through its Protocol. Further, as part of the advocacy and cooperative aspects of the SEANWFZ Treaty, Thailand has organized regional workshops and seminars with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on issues such as radiation safety.

Mr. Chairman,

We hope that a large portion of our discussions on substantive matters, particularly in those sessions on specific issues, will focus on the two key issues of nuclear disarmament and regional issues including the Middle East. In reviewing our progress on nuclear disarmament since the 2000 Review Conference, we hope that our exchanges of views will focus on the thirteen practical steps for the systematic and progressive efforts to implement Article VI of the NPT and Paragraphs 3 and 4 of the 1995 Decision on “Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament”, particularly the unequivocal undertaking by the Nuclear Weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament, as agreed to at the previous Review Conference.

At the same time, in order for the NPT process to continue to maintain its relevancy in the face of the changing international security landscape, particularly in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on 11 September last year, we feel that some discussion, in an appropriate format, to address other issues such as nuclear terrorism and safeguards would also be useful. In this connection, we agree in principle with and support the recent proposals by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on the issue of protection against nuclear terrorism presented at the latest meeting of the IAEA Board of Governors in Vienna on 18-21 March 2002.
We should also bear in mind that, in our continued efforts to prevent the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, we do not impede the transfer of nuclear technology and know-how to help States in the research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in accordance with Article IV of the NPT.

Mr. Chairman,

With regard to procedural matters, we hope that consensus can be reached on the outstanding issues as soon as possible so that we can spend the better part of our time discussing the important issues of substance with a view to reinvigorating the NPT process. Further, as part of the strengthened review process of the NPT agreed to at the 2000 Review Conference, we support your efforts, Mr. Chairman, in coming up with a Chairman's Summary that would factually summarise and transmit the results of the First Meeting to future meetings of the Preparatory Committee.

It only remains for me, Mr. Chairman, to reiterate our support to you and your efforts in guiding this important First Meeting of the Preparatory Committee to a fruitful conclusion.

Thank you.