STATEMENT
BY
H.E. MRS. LAXANACHANTORN LAOHAPHAN
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THAILAND
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE IN GENEVA

AT

THE GENERAL DEBATE
OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE
FOR THE 2005 REVIEW CONFERENCE
OF THE PARTIES TO THE TREATY ON THE
NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS (NPT)

29 APRIL 2003
GENEVA

(Please check against delivery)
Mr. Chairperson,

At the outset, please allow me to join all the other speakers before me in congratulating you on your assumption of the Chairmanship of the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 NPT Review Conference. I wish to assure you of Thailand's fullest support in your endeavour to bring this session to a successful and fruitful conclusion. Our appreciations go to Ambassador Henrik Salander of Sweden, Chairperson of the First Session of the Preparatory Committee, for his tireless efforts and wise guidance during the First Session and his contribution to laying groundwork for this present session.

Permit me also to extend our warmest welcome and heartfelt congratulations to Cuba on her decision to join the NPT, as well as the Treaty of Tlatelolco on the nuclear-weapon-free zone in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Mr. Chairperson,

As a peace-loving non-nuclear weapon state, Thailand has always attached great importance to the NPT and all the principles the Treaty stands for, namely, nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation, and the peaceful use of nuclear energy and technology. We firmly believe that, to quote the Chair's Factual Summary of the First PrepCom, "The NPT is the cornerstone of the global non-proliferation regime and the essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament." (End of quote.) In our view, this should be the common commitment for all of us here, in order to create a nuclear-weapon-free world for the benefit of all our children in generations to come.

Since our last session in New York in 2002, we have seen many developments in the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation field, some of which are encouraging, while others present concerns and challenges to the NPT regime and to international peace and security as a whole, especially in the post-September 11 world. In this regard, Thailand associates herself with the statement delivered on 28 April by His Excellency Ambassador Rastam Mohd Isa of Malaysia, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement States Parties to the NPT. We fully share the convictions and the concerns raised by NAM therein.

We remain fully committed to the obligations and commitments under the Treaty as well as the agreements reached at the 1995 and 2000 NPT Review Conferences. We recall that, according to Article VI of the NPT, each of us has undertaken to pursue negotiations in good faith for the cessation of the nuclear arms race and for nuclear disarmament. With this in mind, we wish to urge for the full and speedy implementation of the 13 practical steps, as agreed at the 2000 Review Conference, to accomplish the total elimination of the nuclear arsenals of the Nuclear Weapon States. Indeed, that it is the ultimate goal of the NPT and the aspiration of all humanity to realize a world free of all nuclear weapons.
Mr. Chairperson,

Pending the attainment of this ultimate objective, Thailand attaches utmost importance to the universality of the NPT as a key instrument in the effort to stop both the vertical and horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons. We therefore would like to call on all non-states parties with nuclear capabilities to accede to the Treaty at the earliest possible date. We would also hope to see the peaceful resolution, through dialogue and negotiation, of all issues that had prompted the withdrawal of any States Parties, thus allowing former States Parties to the NPT to return to the NPT regime again.

As the depositary state of the Bangkok Treaty or the Treaty on the South East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone (SEANWFZ), Thailand firmly believes that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free-zones in many regions of the world would serve as positive steps towards achieving the objective of global nuclear disarmament. In this connection, Thailand congratulates the States Parties of the Treaty of Tlatelolco for having brought the Treaty into full force in its area of application, with the ratification of Cuba. We fully support all regional efforts to create Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zones as results of agreements freely arrived at among states of the regions concerned, and support more cooperation and exchanges of views among Nuclear-Weapons-Free-Zones and their states parties, as well as with other interested states.

At the same time, Thailand is of the view that for the SEANWFZ to be fully operative and effective, it is essential that the Nuclear Weapon States accede to the Protocol to the Bangkok Treaty at an early date. Thailand welcomes the progress thus far in the implementation of the Bangkok Treaty, and stresses the importance of direct consultations between ASEAN and the Nuclear Weapon States, with a view to encouraging their accession to the Protocol.

We would also like to echo the NAM statement that, in the context of the NWFZs, as well as the Nuclear-Weapons-Free Status of Mongolia, it is essential that Nuclear Weapon States should provide unconditional assurances against the use, or threat of use, of nuclear weapons to all states of the Zones. Indeed, we attach much significance to the issue of the security assurances by the five Nuclear Weapon States to all Non-Nuclear-Weapon States, whether they are parties of the NWFZs or not. We therefore support the call of the NAM States Parties to the NPT that the PrepCom should focus on this issue in its further deliberations.

Mr. Chairperson,

In this interim stage before our goal is fully achieved, Thailand also considers the issue of transparency, as a confidence-building measure among the States Parties, to be an important issue. We support Canada's initiative to promote a "culture of voluntary reporting" within the system of the NPT. For our part, Thailand has reported her activities in implementing of the
NPT obligations to the First Session of the PrepCom. We shall continue this commitment by providing an updated report to this current session.

Mr. Chairperson,

Thailand considers the Safeguards System of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to be one of the most important elements of the NPT Regime, and accords high priority to cooperation with the IAEA on the issue of nuclear safety. I am happy to report that, during the past year, there has been concrete progress on the matter of the Additional Protocol of the Safeguard Agreement between Thailand and the IAEA. The Thai authorities concerned have studied the obligations and substance of the Model Additional Protocol, and have benefited from consultations with experts from the IAEA, the USA, Australia and Japan on the matter, which greatly enhanced our understanding of the Additional Protocol. We therefore hope to be able to ratify the Additional Protocol with the IAEA within 2004 in order to strengthen our cooperation with the world community in the promotion of international peace and security and to contribute to the international anti-terrorism efforts.

Finally, as a developing country, Thailand highly values the benefits derived from the peaceful use of nuclear energy, as well as the cooperation and exchanges of information on related technologies, as stipulated under Article IV of the NPT. We thank the IAEA and our development partners for their support on this matter and pledge to continue to work closely with them.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

*****