Statement by
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at Cluster III: Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy,
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,

9 May 2017, Vienna
Mr. Chair,

1. My delegation wishes to begin by underlining the balanced implementation and equal importance of the three main pillars of the NPT – namely, nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

2. Of paramount importance to Thailand are the peaceful uses of nuclear energy under the NPT. This pillar was part of the grand bargain during the negotiations of the Treaty half a century ago. Today, this pillar has contributed significantly to our efforts toward the attainment of the SDGs.

3. We therefore underscore that non-nuclear-weapon States’ commitment under the NPT must be matched by the genuine efforts of nuclear-weapon States in the implementation of their respective obligations, particularly those pertaining to nuclear disarmament as stipulated in Article VI of the Treaty.

Mr. Chair,

4. Thailand wishes to re-emphasize the inalienable right of all States Parties to the NPT to the development, research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination, as enshrined in Article IV of the Treaty. We call for the continued respect of such right and oppose any undue restrictions or efforts that may affect it.

5. The international community has without doubt immensely benefited from the peaceful applications of nuclear energy in wide-ranging civilian fields, such as nuclear power, food and agriculture, health, water management and industrial applications, among others. These applications have made positive contributions to national development and can further accelerate global efforts toward sustainable development.

6. Thailand appreciates the central role of the IAEA in the promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, in particular through its Technical Cooperation Programme, and commends the IAEA’s unwavering commitment in this regard. In return, Thailand reiterates its commitment to support the Agency’s activities by hosting several IAEA regional meetings, workshops and training courses annually. Thailand stands ready to be a regional hub for technical cooperation, providing training in many areas which we have benefited from IAEA’s TC contributions, to experts from other countries in the region.
7. For the TC Programme to be effective, there is a need to ensure that resources for TC activities are sufficient, assured and predictable. We urge all States Parties to the NPT that are Members of the IAEA to make their financial contributions to the IAEA’s TC Fund in full and on time. We also welcome any additional extrabudgetary contributions in this respect.

8. My delegation further recognizes that while pursuing peaceful uses of nuclear energy; nuclear safety, security and safeguards should be carefully taken into account. Yet, these considerations must not pose as hindrance to the right to peaceful uses. Instead, they should aim to strengthen peaceful uses activities.

9. With the new Nuclear Energy for Peace Act B.E. 2559 (2016), Thailand is well-equipped with the legal framework that not only allows us to implement our international obligations in a more effective manner, but also provides penal measures against illegal activities. This Act also allows Thailand to become a party to major international instruments in promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, non-proliferation, and disarmament.

Mr. Chair,

9. Before closing, Thailand is proud to be part of the dynamic ASEAN Community. ASEAN has undertaken many initiatives to support our contributions to international peace and security. In the context of our obligations under Articles II and IV of the Treaty, we are realizing our collective commitment to ensuring the highest standards of safety, security and safeguards in activities relating to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy within ASEAN in accordance with IAEA’s standards and guidelines. Since 2013, ASEAN has formed the ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies or ASEANTOM to be the driving force behind this undertaking. Thailand fully supports ASEANTOM and has hosted many activities, including its inaugural and second meetings, as well as workshops covering various technical areas such as nuclear forensics, radiation biodosimetry, environmental radioactivity measurement as well as emergency preparedness and response.

10. We appreciate the IAEA for approving a regional TC project on nuclear emergency preparedness and response for the ASEAN region for the period of 2016-2017 with a possible extension to 2019. Thailand is ready to work towards closer cooperation between ASEAN and the IAEA on this matter.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.