Statement by
Mrs. Suphanvasa Chotikajan Tang,
Director of Peace, Security, and Disarmament Division,
Department of International Organizations,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand

at Cluster 2: Non-proliferation,
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,

8 May 2017, Vienna
Mr. Chair,

1. At the outset, Thailand would like to align itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished delegate of Indonesia on behalf of NAM.

Mr. Chair,

2. The NPT has achieved progress in ensuring the peaceful uses of nuclear technology by all State Parties. However, it has yet to be effective enough in convincing all States that our common interest lies in limiting further proliferation and achieving complete nuclear disarmament as required by Article 6.

3. Non-proliferation must go hand in hand with disarmament. This is why we continue to call on Nuclear Weapon States to fulfil their obligation under Article 6 of the Treaty. As long as some States maintain their nuclear weapons, others may be compelled to seek them for their own security.

4. Regardless of the justifications made for nuclear weapons, their continued existence may enhance the perception of increasing security of a few but is truly harmful to the collective security of all. In our view, nuclear non-proliferation is a global issue requiring the community of States to work towards creating and maintaining a much-needed atmosphere of mutual trust, conducive to promoting concerted actions against proliferation. As part of a region where proliferation exists, regional security concerns must be effectively and peacefully addressed to ensure security of and for all.

5. In this regard, Thailand reiterates its unwavering support to the universal adherence of the NPT and encourages constructive engagements with States that remain outside the Treaty, particularly nuclear-armed States. We support the strict and full implementation of the JCPOA by all parties concerned as well as the IAEA's role in monitoring and verification in Iran. We also support the efforts contributing toward the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other WMDs. Furthermore, we call for the DPRK to cease its nuclear weapons programme, return to the NPT and the IAEA’s safeguards at an early date, and stress the importance of dialogue and peaceful means in resolving this issue.

6. Thailand also maintains the view that all security arrangements must be strictly consistent with the NPT. Any deviations from this global norm must be discouraged.
Mr. Chair,

7. The complexity of our integrated world and a changing security landscape increase the risk that nuclear weapons may fall into the hands of non-State actors. As a regional hub of transport and centre of a vibrant region, Thailand recognizes this challenge. This is why we attach great importance to the effective implementation of relevant international obligations including those contained in UNSC resolution 1540.

8. In addition to being a party to all major international treaties, Thailand is also a partner in several non-proliferation efforts such as the Nuclear Security Contact Group, the Proliferation Security Initiative, and the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism. We value their complementarity and further promote their synergies in order to support the effective implementation of the NPT and other important non-proliferation treaties.

Mr. Chair,

9. To further strengthen the NPT and its implementation, future progress must be built upon the agreed outcomes of the past RevCons. My delegation emphasizes the significance of enhanced transparency and effectiveness of State Parties in carrying out their respective obligations. We encourage an improved reporting mechanism and support the IAEA’s crucial role in safeguards and verification.

10. On our part, Thailand has strengthened its national legislation to strengthen the implementation of its non-proliferation obligations. The new Nuclear Energy for Peace Act has entered into force since 1 February 2017. The Act focuses not only on nuclear safeguards but also on nuclear safety and security. And with this Act, Thailand will soon be able to ratify the Additional Protocol to the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement, the International Convention on Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. The Counter-Terrorism and Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction Financing Act has also taken its full effect. The draft Trade Controls on WMD-related Items Act which will regulate the export of dual-use items in accordance with national and international legal regimes is expected to take effect in early 2018.

11. Work is also in progress on Thailand becoming a party to remaining international agreements such as the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its 2005 Amendment, among others.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.