

**Statement by
Mr. Permsuk Sutthaphiwat
Secretary-General of the Office of Atoms for Peace
at the 67th Regular Session of the General Conference of the IAEA
Vienna International Centre
26 September 2023**

Madam President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Let me begin by congratulating you upon your election as President of the Conference. It is an honor for Thailand to be presiding over the Conference after our last Presidency 28 years ago. Thailand also extends our sincere gratitude to H.E. Mr. Alessandro Cortese of Italy for his outstanding work during his tenure as President of the previous sessions of the Conference.

2. Thailand joins other Member States to congratulate Director General Grossi on his reappointment. We commend his exemplary leadership and dedication and wish him success in his endeavour.

Madam President,

3. At a time of great uncertainty and the ever-changing geopolitical landscape, the IAEA remains at the forefront in the maintenance of international peace and security. The works of the Agency in the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, underpinned by its three main pillars of nuclear safety, security, and safeguards, have contributed significantly to socio-economic development and in upholding the non-proliferation norms.

4. Thailand is deeply concerned with the current situation in Ukraine. The protracted situation poses a growing risk to nuclear safety, security, and safeguards. We commend and support the role of the Agency in providing and facilitating assistance and in continuing its presence at the nuclear power plants in Ukraine to ensure the safe and secure operation of nuclear facilities and related activities. We therefore reiterate the fundamental importance of upholding the Director General's seven indispensable pillars and the five concrete principles.

5. On DPRK, Thailand reiterates our call on the DPRK to fully comply with the relevant UNSC resolutions and for peaceful dialogue among concerned parties. We appreciate the Agency's continued monitoring of the DPRK's nuclear programme and its readiness to resume its verification mandate once a diplomatic solution is reached.

6. Thailand fully supports the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and the efforts towards its preservation. We commend the Agency for its continued verification and monitoring activities as mandated under the JCPOA in an impartial, professional, and independent manner. We call on all parties involved in the negotiations to exert their utmost efforts in resolving the current impasses and in reaching a diplomatic solution that allows for all parties to return to their full commitment under the JCPOA.

Madam President,

7. Thailand stands ready to collaborate with the IAEA and the global community to advance the Agency's work on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. This will enhance the well-being of the people, and support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the global net zero objectives. Initiatives such as the Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action (ZODIAC), Nuclear Technology for Controlling Plastic Pollution (NUTEC Plastic), and Rays of Hope, highlight the Agency's significant role in addressing global challenges, ranging from climate change to pandemics, to food security.

8. Thailand reiterates our commitment to the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), which serves as a crucial mechanism for Member States to enhance their capacities in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, including under the Regional Cooperative Agreement. Thailand is pleased to have concluded the 2023 - 2029 Country Programme Framework with the Agency, which will be signed later this year.

Madam President,

9. Thailand is taking significant steps to strengthen its nuclear safety and security regulatory functions. In this regard, we welcome and look forward to receiving the visits of several IAEA missions including the International Nuclear Security Advisory Service (INSServ) Mission in 2024, the Occupational Radiation Protection Programme (ORPAS) Appraisal Service Mission in 2024, the International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS) Mission in 2025 and the Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) Mission also in 2025.

10. Thailand also welcomes the successful outcome of the Joint Eighth and Ninth Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety in March this year.

Madam President,

11. As a State Party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), Thailand recognizes the critical role of the IAEA in strengthening the global non-proliferation and disarmament regime while promoting peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

12. While we are disappointed at the continued lack of substantive outcomes at the NPT Review Conferences and the gaps in the Treaty's implementation, Thailand underscores the complementary nature between the NPT, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), and other relevant international frameworks and organizations. With the forthcoming Second Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW in New York later this year, Thailand stands ready to cooperate with all parties to advance our shared goal.

13. We acknowledge the crucial role of regional frameworks in advancing nuclear safety, security, and safeguards. These include the Asia Pacific Safeguards Network (APSN) and the ASEANTOM. We support efforts under the ASEAN Protocol for Preparedness and Response to a Nuclear or Radiological Emergency, which was completed as part of the Agency's Regional Project on Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) in ASEAN. We also welcome ASEAN's decision to renew the Practical Arrangements between ASEAN and IAEA for another 5 years.

Madam President,

14. In closing, Thailand appreciates the IAEA's professionalism in fulfilling its mandate in a transparent and objective manner. We reiterate our firm commitment to the obligations under the Agency's framework and stand ready to collaborate constructively with the Agency and fellow Member States to achieve our shared endeavour.

I thank you, Madam President.
