Mr. Chair,

1. Thailand aligns itself with the NAM statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Indonesia.

2. My delegation underlines the equal importance and balanced implementation of the three main pillars of the NPT – namely, nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

3. Thailand attaches paramount importance to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy under the NPT, which is contributing significantly to global efforts toward the attainment of the SDGs. This pillar was part of the grand bargain during the negotiations of the Treaty half a century ago as well as when the Treaty was extended indefinitely in 1995. We, therefore, underscore that the commitment of non-nuclear-weapon States under the NPT must be reciprocated 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 re-emphasizes the inalienable right of all States Parties to the NPT to develop 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 immensely benefited from the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in wide-ranging fields. Thailand appreciates the central role of the IAEA in the promotion of such uses, in particular through its Technical Cooperation Programme.

6. For the Technical Cooperation Programme to be effective, there is a need to ensure that resources for TC activities are sufficient, assured and predictable. Recalling Action 54 of the outcome document of the 2010 NPT RevCon, we encourage all States Parties to the NPT that are Members of the IAEA to make their financial contributions to the IAEA’s Technical Cooperation Fund in full and on time.

7. Additional extrabudgetary resources for IAEA activities are also welcome. For our part, last year we were pleased to make extrabudgetary contributions to the IAEA in support of its Peaceful Uses Initiative and the Renovation of the Nuclear Applications Laboratories or ReNuAL project.

8. Thailand reaffirms its commitment to the IAEA. We have also continued to provide in-kind contributions to the IAEA through hosting several IAEA workshops and training courses annually. In 2018, we will host a total of 18 IAEA activities – a record number in a calendar year. Furthermore, determining to elevate its cooperation with the IAEA, Thailand expresses its willingness to serve as an IAEA regional training hub in the areas of its expertise such as water resource management, control of vector-borne diseases and nuclear safety.

Mr. Chair,

9. My delegation recognizes that the pursuit of peaceful uses of nuclear energy must be accompanied by nuclear safety, security and safeguards. Yet, these considerations should not pose as hindrance to the right to peaceful uses. Instead, they should aim to strengthen peaceful uses activities.
10. In this regard, Thailand has made every effort to strengthen its domestic legislations in order to ensure the above. Thailand's Nuclear Energy for Peace Act has put in place an adequate domestic legal framework for Thailand to not only further utilize peaceful uses of nuclear energy in a more comprehensive manner but also to allow us to become a party to remaining major international instruments related to nuclear matters. This is in line with Actions 10, 28 and 59 of the 2010 outcome document.

Mr. Chair,

11. Regional cooperation to promote peaceful uses of nuclear energy is significant. Thailand is proud to be part of the dynamic ASEAN Community. ASEAN has undertaken many initiatives to strengthen international peace and security. In the context of our obligations under Articles II, III and IV of the NPT, ASEAN Member States, through the regional network of regulatory bodies or ASEANTOM, are realizing our collective commitment to ensuring the high standards of safety, security and safeguards, in accordance with IAEA standards, in our activities relating to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

12. ASEAN Member States are also working towards the institutionalization of ASEANTOM, including through the establishment of its Secretariat and designated website, as well as developing an ASEANTOM Work Plan for a short or medium term. In addition, Thailand supports the further enhancement of ASEAN's cooperation with the IAEA through ASEANTOM, and looks forward to an early formalization of ASEAN - IAEA relations.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.