Statement

by

the Delegation of Thailand

at the Third Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Cluster III: Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy

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1. Thailand aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

Mr. Chair,

2. The peaceful uses of nuclear energy are well known and may have great benefit for us all as we seek more efficient ways to fuel our industry and economy. As such, when the NPT was concluded, one of the most integral parts of the Treaty included the inalienable right of all States Parties “to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy without discrimination,” as enshrined in Article IV.

3. This peaceful use of nuclear energy was also enshrined as one of the three pillars of the NPT, alongside nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament, which address the need for the international community to control and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons.

4. After almost fifty years, however, these three pillars of the NPT have not developed at the same pace. This is cause for concern as it may lead to fragility and the eventual collapse of the whole structure in the long run.

5. Thailand has consistently and shall continue to voice support for the balanced implementation of the three main pillars of the NPT; as when all three pillars are equally addressed is when we can be sure that the Treaty is moving forward in a tangible and sustainable manner.

6. Consequently, Thailand places high importance on its work regarding peaceful uses of nuclear energy with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). We recognize and appreciate the IAEA’s facilitating and supporting role concerning nuclear security, safety, and safeguards on peaceful nuclear activities, in compliance with the NPT.

Mr. Chair,

7. Also provided in the Treaty is the obligation for States Parties to “undertake to facilitate, and have the right to participate in, the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.” This emphasizes cooperation as vital to advancing the NPT, and the IAEA plays a key role here as well, carrying out its “Atoms for
Peace and Development” mandate through its Technical Cooperation Programme. Projects under its umbrella have allowed for Member States, including Thailand, to share information and exchange know-how to apply nuclear technology to their various development contexts; whether that is in the field of public health, agriculture, food safety and security, or energy. It is heartening to see that the effective implementation of one pillar of the NPT can bring closer together two pillars of the UN – peace and development - as well as bring us closer to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Mr. Chair,

8. That spirit of cooperation also lends itself to the regional context. As the current Chair of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its regional network of nuclear regulatory bodies or ASEANTOM, Thailand stands ready to work closely with all relevant partners to further promote peaceful uses of nuclear energy in the region, as appropriate, in accordance with IAEA’s safeguards systems as well as its safety and security standards. At present, ASEAN is working to conclude a Practical Arrangement with the IAEA, to formalize our relations and further expand upon our partnership.

Mr. Chair,

9. Allow me to conclude by going back to reflect on what my delegation informed the Second PrepCom last year, that Thailand was working toward early ratifications of the CTBT, the CPPNM and its Amendment, the Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS), the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel and Radioactive Waste Management, and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT).

10. It is with great pleasure that I am able to inform the meeting today that we have been able to ratify all said instruments, with the recent deposit of the instrument of ratification for ICSANT just a few short days ago. With such kept promises, Thailand reiterates our commitment to fulfilling our international obligations and to upholding all of the norms and pillars of the NPT.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.