

**Statement of the Thai Delegation**

*by*

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*and*

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**At**

**The Third Conference on Facilitating the**

**Entry into Force of the CTBT**

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Mr. President,

On behalf of the Thai delegation, allow me at the outset, to join other distinguished representatives in congratulating you upon your election as President of the Conference. I am also confident that under your able guidance and leadership, this Conference will produce fruitful and positive outcomes, and successful conclusion.

Mr. President,

Thailand, as a State Signatory, welcomes the convening of this Conference. Looking back to the conclusion of the CTBT in September 1996, which was heralded a historical achievement and a significant step towards global disarmament and world peace, it is regrettable that after 7 years have elapsed, the CTBT has not yet entered into force.

On a positive note, however, my delegation welcomes the recent ratification of the Treaty by Algeria, whose ratification is vital, as Algeria is one of the 44 states listed in the Annex 2 to the Treaty. As Thailand is preparing to ratify the Treaty, my delegation urges the remaining States and States Signatories listed in the Annex 2 to submit their instruments of ratification as soon as possible.

Mr. President,

Thailand signed the CTBT on 12 November 1996 and is in the process of becoming a full member of the CTBT with ratification expected in 2004. At the mean time, Thailand is committed to the development of the CTBT verification regime. Exchange of

Letters to facilitate CTBTO/Prep Com to initiate implementation of establishing two monitoring stations, RN65 and PS41, in Thailand are in their advanced stage. Cabinet approval is necessary before formal agreement to the Exchange of Letters can be concluded.

Mr. President,

Thailand remains fully committed to its obligations and commitments under the NPT and the agreements reached at both the 1995 and 2000 NPT Review Conferences. In this regard, particular attention should be given to the implementation of the 13 practical steps to advance systematically and progressively towards a nuclear-weapon-free world. Implementation of the State Parties, particularly of the 5 Nuclear Weapons States in this respect is encouraged and essential to be consistent with our commitments to disarmament and world peace.

On the same note, my delegation is pleased to participate in focused discussions among a large number of the States Signatories and Ratifiers to formulate a meaningful and constructive 'Final Declaration and Measures to Promote Entry into Force'. My delegation fully support the emerging consensus of the final draft and is grateful to Ambassador Gronberg of Finland for leading the works of the informal consultations.

Mr. President,

Allow me to conclude by reaffirming Thailand's full support for the objectives of the CTBT, whose entry into force would serve as a comprehensive ban on nuclear test explosions and the qualitative development of nuclear weapons. Accordingly, Thailand is committed to collaborate closely with other States Signatories and Ratifiers to ensure the success conclusion of this Conference and the early entry into force of the CTBT.

Thank you.

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