

Statement

**By H.E. Mr. Don Pramudwinai
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand
for the Eighth CTBT Ministerial Meeting
“Time to Finish What We Started”**

21 September 2016, Conference Room 3, UN Headquarters, New York

This year certainly marks the 20th anniversary of the opening of the CTBT for signature. As a signatory state, Thailand recognises the importance of the Treaty as a crucial instrument for the disarmament and non-proliferation regime and echoes the many calls for the universalisation of the Treaty.

I am glad to share with the meeting that, on 5 August this year, Thailand’s *Nuclear Energy for Peace Act 2016* was published in the Thai Royal Gazette and by February 2017, it will be enacted as law. This new legislation would, with revised and new provisions to cover international obligations, enable Thailand to ratify the CTBT, as well as other relevant treaties and conventions related to nuclear safety, security, and safeguards. While pending the ratification, Thailand has always fully observed our commitments and obligations paving the way for a world free of nuclear weapons.

Allow me at this juncture to also add how much we have also enjoyed working closely with the CTBTO Preparatory Commission, and benefited from capacity building programmes for technical experts and staff. We have made progress in preparing the facilities and personnel needed for the installation and operation of the Radionuclide Station, which should be ready by 2017.

Co-Chair,

The CTBT has the potential to ensure peace, security, and a safer world for future generations of all states. As such, it is important for all of us, particularly Annex 2 countries, to ratify the Treaty to enable the CTBT to enter into force. Thailand will continue to do our part and

contribute to that goal, and hopes to see the universalisation of the CTBT a reality, with the concerted effort and determination of us all.

I thank you very much.
