

**Statement by**  
**H.E. Mr. Vijavat Isarabhakdi**  
**Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand**  
**at the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the**  
**Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty**  
**23 September 2021**  
**The United Nations Headquarters, New York**

Mr. Secretary-General,  
Co-Presidents,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a historic moment for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, with the opening for signature of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). 25 years on, the CTBT has gained almost universal acceptance, with Thailand also joining and doing our part. The verification mechanism has been readily established, including the International Monitoring System with 302 certified monitoring stations situated globally – two of which Thailand proudly hosts. The CTBTO Preparatory Commission is also fully functioning to support the work of the Treaty, with a new Executive Secretary at the helm. Along with our active participation throughout the years, Thailand was honoured that the Thai State Audit Office served as the CTBTO External Auditor for the terms 2018 – 2019 and 2020 – 2021.

Co-Presidents,

The 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary is a cause for celebration. Yet, at the same time, it reminds us that the Treaty has yet to enter into force and become operative as an international legally binding instrument. We will, therefore, have to do more in order to facilitate the entry into force of this historic treaty. In this connection, Thailand is joining other countries in a call for the eight remaining Annex-2 States to ratify the Treaty without delay. Given the current geopolitical circumstances, such action is more crucial than ever. Their participation can indeed change the course of history for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Together with efforts in other disarmament frameworks, including the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), which entered into force earlier this year, the long-overdue entry into force of the CTBT is key to the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free world, which all of us jointly strive to realise. Such achievement would not only allow us to uphold the purposes and principles of the United Nations in maintaining international peace and security, but also mitigate the risks and humanitarian consequences that these cruel weapons impose upon any of us.

As the depositary of the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ or the Bangkok Treaty), and as a State with a longstanding and firm commitment towards nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, Thailand is conscious that it has a role to play in the whole process. We stand ready to work with all parties to achieve this common goal.

Thank you.

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