

**Thailand's input for the Secretary-General's report on
"Confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context"
(A/RES/79/27)**

In addition to multilateral efforts, Thailand believes that promoting confidence-building measures at the regional and subregional levels is essential to fostering trust, enhancing transparency, and advancing progress towards global disarmament and non-proliferation objectives.

As a founding member of ASEAN, Thailand considers regional frameworks and instruments, including the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) and the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ or Bangkok Treaty), to be fundamental cornerstones of peace and stability in the Southeast Asian region. These efforts reflect ASEAN's enduring commitment to non-proliferation, the peaceful resolution of disputes, and a rules-based international order—principles enshrined in the ASEAN Charter, which affirms the goal of “preserv[ing] Southeast Asia as a Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone and free of all other weapons of mass destruction.”

As the Depositary State of the SEANWFZ, Thailand has been at the forefront of supporting and implementing the Treaty's objectives. We welcome the prospective accession of Timor-Leste to the Treaty and reaffirm our commitment to continuously engaging with the Nuclear-Weapon States to resolve all outstanding issues in accordance with the objectives and principles of the SEANWFZ Treaty.

ASEAN-led mechanisms, including the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), East Asia Summit (EAS), and ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus), serve as vital platforms for dialogue, confidence-building, and exchange of best practices. Thailand's co-chairing of the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (ISM on NPD) from 2022 to 2024 exemplified our strong commitment to regional dialogue on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Transparency and information sharing tools, such as the ARF Defence White Paper Exchange and ADMM-Plus Security Outlook, contribute to building regional trust. Joint exercises, including the ADMM-Plus Maritime Security Field Training and ARF Disaster Relief Exercises (DiREx), further reinforce practical cooperation, reduce misperceptions, and foster mutual understanding among ASEAN Member States and external partners.

ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy (ASEANTOM) stands out as a model for transparency and cooperation in the nuclear field. Initiated by Thailand, ASEANTOM has played a central role in promoting regional cooperation on nuclear safety, security, and safeguards. The ASEAN Protocol for Preparedness and Response to a Nuclear or Radiological Emergency serves as guidelines to improve emergency preparedness and response arrangements across ASEAN Member States and may serve as a useful reference for other regions. In our capacity as Chair of the Asia-Pacific Safeguards Network (APSN) in 2023 - 2024, Thailand further advanced regional cooperation in nuclear safeguards and capacity building.

Thailand recognises the importance of fostering regional cooperation and collaboration with international organisations and relevant partners in support of global efforts on disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. The renewal of the Practical Arrangements between ASEAN and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) through 2029, along with relevant initiatives such as the ASEANTOM-IAEA Workshop on Emergency Preparedness and Response in Bangkok in 2023, are examples of ASEAN's ongoing efforts to strengthen nuclear safety, security and safeguards in the region.

Aligned with the ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint 2025, ASEAN continues to strengthen confidence-building measures while adopting a more proactive approach to preventive diplomacy. This shift aims to boost regional resilience and prevent conflicts before they arise. The ARF is at the forefront of this approach through revitalisation efforts. Regional and sub-regional confidence-building measures, however, remain essential instruments to the maintenance of international peace and security.

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