Statement

Delivered by

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Mr. Chair,

1. Thailand aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and ASEAN.

2. Thailand’s long history of support for disarmament of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs) is based on our strong belief that the existence of these weapons pose a fundamental danger to our collective security, and their use have insufferable humanitarian consequences.

3. Nuclear weapons are inhumane weapons, and it is inconceivable that their use could ever, under any circumstances, be justified. Nuclear disarmament is not only a legal obligation, but also a moral and ethical imperative. As such, Member States are sending a clear message that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only way to guarantee against their use or threat of use. This is well reflected by the swift entry into force of the TPNW. As we plan for the First Meeting of States Parties in Vienna next spring, we would encourage all Member States, States Parties and non-States Parties alike, to participate at the meeting.

4. Thailand strongly believes that both the TPNW and the NPT are complementary and collectively contribute to the common goal of a world free of nuclear weapons. We call on all States Parties to the NPT to renew their commitments towards the full implementation of the Treaty, in particular Article VI and urge all parties to work in good faith towards the success of the 10th NPT Review Conference.

5. At the same time, Thailand places utmost importance to the universal adherence to the CTBT and urges the Annex 2 States to join the Treaty without delay. Thailand also attaches great significance to the promotion of peaceful use of nuclear energy and the IAEA’s important work.

6. As depositary of the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty or the Bangkok Treaty, Thailand reiterates our commitment to preserve Southeast Asia as a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter and the Bangkok Treaty. We call on the Nuclear Weapon States to sign and ratify the Treaty’s protocol at the earliest. We also continue to support the ongoing efforts toward the establishment of such a zone in the Middle East.

Mr. Chair,

7. On biological and chemical weapons, cooperation under the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) and Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) remains a key element to address these weapons’ non-proliferation. Thailand fully supports the strengthening of the BWC with a legally-binding verification protocol to the Treaty
and commends the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) for carrying out its work particularly under the pandemic time.

Mr. Chair,

8. On conventional weapons, Thailand fully supports the strengthening of full and effective control of these weapons, as they are not only explicitly linked with international peace and security, but also with sustainable development and humanitarian impacts.

9. The UN PoA is an essential framework that continues to guide Thailand’s efforts to respond to the illicit trade and diversion of small arms and light weapons (SALWs). We welcome the adoption of the final report of the BMS7. Thailand continues to uphold the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and are working towards the Treaty’s ratification.

10. Another priority area for Thailand is the Mine Ban Convention, Thailand has exercised its utmost efforts on mine clearance operations in order to fulfil our commitments under the Convention and in line with the Oslo Action Plan. To date, Thailand has cleared and released more than 95 percent of the mine contaminated area.

11. This year, Thailand is honoured to be serving as the Chair of the Committee on Victim Assistance under the framework of the Convention. Thailand is of the view that victim assistance should be placed as one of the top priorities for States Parties, and that its work should be carried out in synergy with other frameworks.

Mr. Chair,

12. Thailand recognizes that the use of outer space should exclusively be for peaceful purposes, which demands our concerted action to prevent it from becoming another domain of arms race.

13. In closing, Thailand would like to reaffirm its unwavering commitment to the important work of the First Committee. We stand ready to build on the constructive partnerships with all parties to address the challenges.

I thank you.

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