Mr. President,

1. At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, upon your appointment. I am confident that your expertise and experience will continue to guide us towards the success of the 1MSP. My appreciation also goes to your team and all parties involved for the hard work and contribution rendered throughout the process leading up to this meeting.

2. As the Chair of the Open-ended Working Group taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations back in 2016 in Geneva, which recommended to the General Assembly the negotiation of a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, I am delighted to be here today in the company of so many old friends, to further lay a foundation for the work of the Treaty. This is an important first step towards fulfilling our aspiration. The TPNW’s entry into force has sent a powerful message that we no longer wish to see nuclear weapons continue to exist. But such an aspiration will only come true when the TPNW successfully turns the tide of global peace and security, leading to a world where the mere possession of such weapons becomes unthinkable, as is the case with all other weapons of mass destruction.

3. To achieve this goal, we cannot act alone. The TPNW must work in complementarity with other existing disarmament and non-proliferation mechanisms and build upon the progress we have succeeded so far by continuing to promote the humanitarian consequences and the “positive obligations” of the Treaty. The draft outcome document of the 1MSP, including the Action Plan, clearly embraces and reflects this principle – and echoes our collective voice that we are ready to join hands with other parties beyond the TPNW framework.

4. In driving the TPNW forward, we have to be agile in our working method. To this end, Thailand wishes to offer views on the following approaches:
5. First, we have to be scientific yet pragmatic. Our decisions must be based on scientific data to ensure accountability, especially on issues crucial to the viability of the Treaty, such as deadlines and verification. Substantive participation from civil society and academia, has been and should always be an integral part of our process. In addition, valuable inputs from the Scientific Advisory Group, when established, will enhance the credibility of the Treaty. At the same time, we have to be pragmatic, considering views of States Parties, as well as actors beyond the TPNW framework, so that we can build effective mechanisms to drive the Treaty forward.

6. Second, we have to be inclusive. To promote universalisation and increase the efficacy of the TPNW, collaboration with all stakeholders must be strengthened by forging relationships with our existing partners, including the ICRC, ICAN and other civil society organisations and the academia. Furthermore, we need to seek proactive engagement with parliamentarians, the private sector and the general public, especially our youth who will become an important driving force for the universalisation of the Treaty. These stakeholders can also play a crucial role in the implementation of the Treaty’s “positive obligations” including victim assistance and environmental remediation.

7. Third, we have to take a constructive approach towards engaging and building a cooperation-based relationship with nuclear-armed, nuclear-hosting, and nuclear-umbrella states by emphasising the human-centric nature of the Treaty.

8. Not only does the TPNW constructively contribute to international security, but its humanitarian obligations that reinforce the nexus between peace, security and sustainable development is also aligned with Thailand’s own vision. After all, it is humanity being able to live and prosper peacefully in a sustainable world free of nuclear weapons that is at the heart of all our efforts. And to achieve this ultimately requires the cooperation of and partnership with all States. Therefore, we must work together to strengthen the commitment to the TPNW’s obligations and effectively cement the Treaty’s status as a universal legally binding norm against the existence of nuclear weapons.

9. Thailand is proud to be one of the first three countries to sign and ratify the TPNW. We reiterate our unwavering commitment to the successful implementation of the TPNW. Now more than ever, we must do our best to safeguard global security, and we believe that this Treaty will prove to be at the core of such efforts. We therefore look forward to actively taking part in this historic journey.

Thank you.

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