Statement

by

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Third Secretary

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Thematic Discussion – Nuclear Weapons

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Mr. Chair,

1. The Kingdom of Thailand aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

Mr. Chair,

2. As we stated at the General Debate, Thailand firmly believes that people lie at the centre of disarmament and non-proliferation. Human rights, development and peace are mutually reinforcing concepts. They are also the cultivating grounds for human and collective security for all. In this equation, there is no place for weapons of mass destruction or nuclear weapons.

3. Thailand welcomes the historic adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). This evidence of concerted efforts is an important milestone in nuclear disarmament, bringing us a step closer to a world without nuclear weapons. In practical terms, it has opened up a legal pathway for States to give up their nuclear arsenals. In symbolic terms, it can be seen as the international community’s fierce response to increasing uncertainty worldwide.

4. Thailand participated actively in the process leading to the TPNW and is amongst the three States to have signed and ratified the Treaty. In our view, the Treaty’s provisions enable inclusive dialogue and cooperation with all parties towards the common aspiration of a world without nuclear weapons.

5. Thailand strongly believes that the TPNW is complementing and strengthening the provisions of Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which remains the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. Particularly, the new Treaty bolsters the NPT’s safeguards system under the responsibility of the IAEA by setting the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements as a minimum requirement. The TPNW is also fulfilling the obligations under the NPT’s Article 6. Its non-discriminatory and inclusive nature is open for all States to join. In this regard, we also look forward to the substantive, meaningful, comprehensive and actionable outcomes of the 2020 NPT Review Conference.

6. At the same time, as a depositary State of the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon - Free Zone (SEANWFZ), we urge nuclear weapon States to continue consultations with ASEAN towards the signing and ratification of the Treaty’s protocol. We also attach importance to the establishment of nuclear weapon free zones in all areas of the world, especially in the Middle East.

Mr. Chair,

7. Thailand continues to share the international community’s grave concern over heightened tensions on the Korean Peninsula. We hope that all Parties will use peaceful means to realize peace and stability on a denuclearized Korean Peninsula.
8. Not only can weaponization of technology be catastrophic but the diversion of resources can also deny us the opportunities and benefits that can contribute to peace and development.

Nuclear technology should be used exclusively for peaceful purposes. The works of the IAEA to promote nuclear science and technology and their peaceful applications are and will continue to be important in our efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We strongly support the IAEA in its endeavors to this end.

Mr. Chair,

9. Let me conclude with the following. We arrive at an important juncture in history when renewed attention is given to nuclear weapons, not as instruments of security and prestige but of terror and destruction. The Kingdom of Thailand wishes to pay special tribute to the proponents of the humanitarian initiative. In particular, we recognize the ICAN, the recently awarded Nobel Peace Laureate, and other civil societies for their perseverance and support to this cause.

I thank you Mr. Chair.

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