Statement

by

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Thematic Discussion – Other Weapons of Mass Destruction

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Please check against delivery
Thank you,

Mr. Chair,

1. Allow me at the outset to align the Kingdom of Thailand with the statement delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

Mr. Chair,

2. Global security can only be achieved through the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction (WMDs). In order to prosper, people must feel safe and not live their lives in fear.

3. Thailand condemns the use of chemical weapons anywhere, by anyone, under any circumstances. The confirmation on the use of chemical weapons in Syria and elsewhere is deeply saddening.

4. Preventing the proliferation of these weapons requires the concerted efforts and unwavering commitment of the international community and Thailand recognizes our fundamental responsibility to this end. Consequently, we are committed to fulfilling our obligations to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) and the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). We call upon all States not yet Party to ratify or accede to these Conventions without delay.

5. In addition, Thailand welcomes the recent progress made by State Parties, namely Libya on their removal of all chemical weapons precursors and Russia for their recent completion of chemical stockpiles destruction. These are testaments to States Parties’ commitments towards disarmament through multilateralism.

Mr. Chair,

6. Inspection and Verification are essential to the effective and transparent implementation of these WMD instruments. We therefore attach great importance to the work of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), particularly the OPCW-UN Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM) for its work carried out under very difficult circumstances, and the OPCW’s progress and fact-finding mission reports which we continue to monitor closely. We encourage all States to render support to the OPCW.

7. This past July, we joined hands with the OPCW to host a regional dialogue on “Promoting Global Peace and Prosperity through Chemical Safety and Security: Celebrating 20 Years of the CWC and the OPCW.” The event was attended by the public, private, and academic sector representatives from the Asia-Pacific,
and provided a space for open dialogue aimed to strengthen the CWC as a whole.

8. In the same vein, Thailand deems verification as critical to the realization of the goals of the Biological Weapons Convention. We need accountability when it comes to the management of such harmful materials and we support the call for a verification mechanism under the BWC.

9. At the national level, Thailand looks to bolster accountability by ensuring that competent laws and regulations are updated and remain relevant. Recently, many existing pieces of legislation regarding the control of biological agents and materials were revised, such as the Pathogens and Animal Toxins Act and the Communicable Diseases Act. We also have a Biological Weapons Working Group, a mechanism that we have found extremely useful for coordination across the relevant authorities that also supports implementation accountability.

10. Thailand also recognizes the importance of international cooperation in BWC implementation. We enjoy collaboration with many international initiatives, including the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Global Health Security Agenda. Such entities can provide valuable guidance and support on public health, biosafety, and biosecurity, which contribute to a more comprehensive BWC.

11. Furthermore, Thailand also continues to implement the obligations pursuant to Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004), which we consider a crucial pillar of the global non-proliferation architecture. In September, we co-hosted a South-East Asia workshop with the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD) on UNSCR 1540 to strengthen regional understanding and cooperation. For Thailand, not only does Resolution 1540 bridge the previously unaddressed gap of WMDs and non-State actors, but it also connects the different non-proliferation regimes, highlighting once again the coordination needed to achieve global security.

Mr. Chair,

12. As we move forward to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, let us be reminded that the commitment to non-proliferation and disarmament of all weapons of mass destruction, cooperation, and the spirit of partnership can help us accomplish our goal of security, well-being and sustainable development for all.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.