Statement delivered by

Miss Kate Vasharakorn,
Second Secretary,
Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Thailand
to the United Nations

at the Thematic Discussion on Other Weapons of Mass Destruction
of the First Committee, Seventy-Third Session
of the United Nations General Assembly

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Mr. Chair,

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

Mr. Chair,

2. The international norms against biological and chemical weapons were firmly established after a major global awakening. The global community witnessed the horrific humanitarian consequences of the use of these weapons in the First World War. The international community responded collectively but despite those efforts, we find ourselves confronting the same humanitarian challenges today. The norms we worked so hard to solidify are being tested in different places around the world.

3. To ensure “disarmament to save humanity” and that people are central to our disarmament efforts, we must safeguard these norms so that they continue to be upheld and respected.

Mr. Chair,

4. On chemical weapons, we must do more. Thailand wishes to reiterate once again that the use of chemical weapons anywhere, by anyone, under any circumstances, is unacceptable. Proven perpetrators must be held accountable. At the same time, this process of verification must be transparent, balanced, and consensual. The upcoming 23rd Session of the Convention’s Conference of States Parties and 4th Review Conference provides a fitting opportunity to deliberate on such matters. Thailand stands ready to work with all relevant parties to achieve a successful and consensual outcome.
5. On biological weapons, Thailand welcomes the fruitful conclusion of the 2017 Meeting of States Parties of the BWC, where consensus was reached on moving forward the Convention’s Inter-Sessional Programme (ISP). By identifying the priorities for the BWC’s ISP, States Parties are now more well-equipped to contribute to the strengthening of the Convention as a whole. All priorities of the ISP are important, but of particular interest is the institutional strengthening of the Convention. We believe that a legally-binding verification protocol is necessary to realizing the goals of the Convention.

Mr. Chair,

6. We cannot allow weapons of mass destruction to fall into the wrong hands. Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) continues to be a tool to help us. For Thailand, this means engaging our private sector to raise awareness on dual-use items and strategic trade control. We welcome further opportunities to cooperate with our regional and international friends and colleagues in this regard.

7. There is a lot of work ahead, but it is critical to charge on. Upholding norms against weapons of mass destruction and ensuring they are respected is not up for debate. It is an obligation. We call upon all Member States to join us, with constructive cooperation and the spirit of multilateralism in mind.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.

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