Statement

by

H.E. Mr. Supark Prongthura

Deputy Permanent Representative

of the Kingdom of Thailand to the United Nations

at the General Debate of the First Committee,
Seventy-Fourth Session
of the United Nations General Assembly

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Mr. Chair,

1. The delegation of Thailand congratulates you and members of the Bureau on the election to the Bureau of the First Committee. We are confident that you will guide us towards a successful and meaningful 74th session. Our appreciation also goes to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and her team for the continued support in advancing disarmament issues.

2. Thailand aligns itself with the ASEAN and NAM statements delivered earlier.

Mr. Chair,

3. Disarmament is one of the preconditions for durable peace, security, development and human rights. As a staunch sustainable development advocate with a people-centric focus and the current chair of ASEAN under the theme “Advancing Partnership for Sustainable Development”, Thailand will spare no efforts to advance and uphould our commitment to achieving sustainable peace, security and development, with disarmament as an important tool in this endeavour.

Mr. Chair,

4. Thailand is guided by our steadfast belief in the mutually reinforcing nature of disarmament mechanisms and development approaches to create peaceful, sustainable and thriving societies.

5. Nowhere is this guiding principle more apparent than in our disarmament efforts in conventional weapons. Acutely aware of the danger that mine-littered areas bring to human life and livelihoods and as a committed State Party to the Mine Ban Convention, Thailand is determined to clear all landmines by 2023. We are actively fulfilling its obligations and proudly declares 86 per cent of its total contaminated area mine-free as of this year.

6. Thailand upholds the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) as a core multilateral instrument that promotes transparency and accountability of the illicit use and transfer of arms while also bearing in mind humanitarian principles. We are committed to working towards ratification of the Treaty.

Mr. Chair,

7. This year, we have witnessed heightened tensions among States, which clearly undermined our efforts and progress towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Constructive dialogue among all stakeholders is critically important in order to keep us on the right track. The upcoming 2020 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference will be a significant opportunity to rebuild trust and move forward on disarmament pledges.

8. As a demonstration of our ongoing efforts to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons, we wish to underscore the importance of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). The TPNW works to complement the nuclear disarmament efforts under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), especially the obligations under Article VI of the NPT. We therefore congratulate the
Member States who have signed and ratified the TPNW during the High-level week last month, and call on others to promptly do so to bring the Treaty into force at the earliest.

9. On Iran’s nuclear programme, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) is a landmark achievement that underscores the effectiveness of multilateral diplomacy for building peace and security in the Middle East. We reiterate our support to the JCPOA, while calling on Iran to return to full compliance. We also call for all parties concerned to constructively work together in finding balanced solutions on the preservation of the Agreement.

10. On DPRK, Thailand welcomes the concerted efforts made to engage in dialogue by all parties, which constitutes positive progress in the Korean Peninsula. We hope that these encouraging undertakings will continue on in good faith and deliver tangible outcomes towards a denuclearized Korean Peninsula.

Mr. Chair,

11. Regarding other weapons of mass destruction, Thailand rejects any use of chemical weapons under all circumstances. We reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the Chemical Weapons Convention and will continue to work closely with the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in all aspects.

12. Thailand remains committed to upholding the norm against the use of biological weapons while also encouraging the peaceful applications of bio-science and technology for sustainable development. It is imperative that we further strengthen the Biological Weapons Convention with a legally binding verification protocol.

Mr. Chair,

13. The rapid and unchecked development of new technologies opens up potential new spheres of conflict, especially in outer space and information and communication technologies. In this regard, Thailand fully supports existing frameworks and welcomes new initiatives, in accordance with international laws, to ensure that such technologies are not misused for non-peaceful purposes.

Mr. Chair,

14. Amidst a deteriorating international security environment which our multilateral disarmament architecture is being put to the test, we must remain steadfast and hopeful. With disarmament, a world of sustainable and lasting peace and security, can be within reach. Thailand urges all parties to reinvigorate and redouble our efforts in creating a more secure and peaceful world for our and future generations.

15. I thank you.