Intervention by Thailand

Panel I on measures to reduce and eliminate the risk of accidental, mistakes, unauthorized or intentional nuclear weapon detonations

The risks are real

First of all, I would like to join other delegations in thanking Dr. Lewis for setting the stage for our discussion and for your thought provoking presentation on the measures to reduce and eliminate the risk of accidental, mistakes, unauthorized or intentional nuclear weapon detonations.

As many delegations already highlighted these points in the previous OEWG session in February, as well as in the discussion today, it is undeniable that these associated risks are so real and we cannot be complacent as the consequences will be catastrophic if our luck runs out. We definitely could not rely on luck and I agree that we need to focus on prevention.

The specter of nuclear arms race has unfortunately become even more frightening today with proliferation of non-state actors who pose serious security challenges worldwide. However, this is not an excuse for any country to continue to maintain or even develop and increase the stockpile of nuclear weapons. In fact, it should rather be a wake-up call for all of us to rethink our security policy, as it has been proven that the existence of nuclear weapons has not made our world any safer.

On the contrary, empirical evidence only points to the need to increase serious and sustained efforts to control, reduce and eliminate nuclear risks -- not only from accidental, mistakes, unauthorized or intentional nuclear weapon detonations, but also need to ensure nuclear security in all types of public and private nuclear facilities, including military ones. And both human and technical errors, as well as proliferation of non-state actors, are key factors which determine these risks.

Possible measures and how to create incentives for nuclear possessing states to be fully committed to implementing these risk reduction measures.

Indeed, many delegations have made valid suggestions for states that possess or host nuclear weapons to reduce such risks by undertaking further practical measures, such as to reduce the role of nuclear weapons in their security doctrines, to reduce the operational status of nuclear weapons systems, reduce or dismantle nuclear weapons designated as surplus stockpiles, as well as strengthen command and control system against cyber-attacks. Such measures indeed benefit us all, including those countries who possess or host nuclear weapons.

What is also important is how can the effectiveness of these measures or steps taken to reduce and eliminate risk of accidental, mistaken, unauthorized or intentional nuclear weapon detonations be measured or determined?