Statement

by

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at the General Debate of the Third Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Mr. Chair,

1. The Kingdom of Thailand congratulates you on your assumption as Chair of the Third Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT. With your dedication, leadership, and good guidance, I am confident that this meeting will be fruitful and help pave the way for a constructive and successful Review Conference in 2020.

2. Thailand aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) States Parties to the NPT delivered by Venezuela and the ASEAN Statement by Myanmar.

Mr. Chair,

3. Over the past 50 years, the NPT has been, and still remains, the cornerstone of the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. The NPT has achieved so much and yet much more still needs to be done. Challenges to the NPT are growing, amidst heightened tensions between States, the threat of non-State actors, and the mixed blessing of rapid advancements in science and technology. However, we must not let such challenges distract or detract us from the urgency of our work. In fact, these obstacles should move us to even greater efforts to achieve the goals of the NPT. We all need to do more.

4. Thailand, like many, is concerned by the current international security context. The modernization of nuclear arsenals, the development of low-yield nuclear weapons, and the advancements in weapons delivery systems not only show that horizontal and vertical proliferation still continue unabated, but that the tradition of placing nuclear weapons at the center of security doctrines has not diminished but gained even more ground.

5. It is now the time we reconceptualize our narratives. In our view, nuclear deterrence is not a policy that guarantees the absence of war but rather the absence of trust. The recent breakdown of the INF Treaty, as well as the state of the JCPOA, can be seen as prime examples of this notion. Thailand believes that these agreements are vital as they highlight how trust can lead to tangible mechanisms that help contribute to nuclear arms reduction and non-proliferation. We call upon all relevant stakeholders of these agreements to seek to enhance trust in one another and continue their full implementation.

6. Similarly, Thailand supports and welcomes the diplomatic efforts being made on the Korean Peninsula. We hope that the trust and good will cultivated will grow to include further dialogue and concrete actions toward sustained peace and complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearization in the region.
Mr. Chair,

7. Doing more also means doing what was promised. At the Review Conference in 2000, the nuclear-weapon States reaffirmed their unequivocal undertaking to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament. At present, however, reductions have slowed to a virtual standstill and disarmament seems a distant goal.

8. As a Ratifying State of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), Thailand sees that the TPNW works to complement and reinforce nuclear disarmament efforts under the NPT, facilitating the effective implementation of Article VI. We call upon all States to sign and ratify the TPNW soonest and we welcome the opportunity to engage all States in meaningful dialogue to find further convergence of ideas and attitudes.

9. In addition, the 2010 Review Conference mandated early consultations for the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other WMDs, in line with NPT Article VII. As a decision on this was also adopted in the First Committee last year, Thailand hopes to see such consultations take place in the near future, as well as the eventual establishment of such zone. Moreover, as depositary of the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zone Treaty or the Bangkok Treaty and ASEAN Chair for 2019, we are committed to the full and effective implementation of the Treaty and to engaging with nuclear-weapon States to work towards this end.

Mr. Chair,

10. The diversity in our perspectives and positions is clear but so is what we have in common. We all deem the NPT to be the foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament and the basis on which to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Let us remember these shared views as well as our shared commitments towards peace, security, and achieving a world free of nuclear weapons.

11. The NPT has faced enough challenges and cannot afford to lose any more time; we cannot afford to lose any more time. We must come together to exercise political will, just as we did almost 50 years ago when the NPT was established, in order to sustain this important Treaty and ensure its success.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.