Statement

by

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at the

United Nations Conference to negotiate a legally-binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination

New York, 28 March 2017
Madame President,

At the outset, my delegation wishes to reiterate our view that a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons to be negotiated at this Conference should be simple, practical and enforceable. It must aim to prohibit, delegitimize and stigmatize nuclear weapons.

For the principles of the instrument,

First, Thailand is motivated by the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons which gravely pose existential threat to humanity and cause massive damages to the environment. Therefore, we recognize the rights of victims affected by nuclear weapons and the importance of victim assistance.

Second, the instrument should clearly reflect that the use of nuclear weapons is irreconcilable with international humanitarian law and incompatible with fundamental principles of international laws particularly those relating to human rights and environment.

Third, the instrument should recognize the treaties establishing nuclear weapon-free zones and their contributions to nuclear disarmament as well as international peace and security.

Fourth, the instrument should be clear in ensuring collective security for all. Nuclear weapons should no longer be a legitimate security guarantee as some States continue to rely on nuclear weapons solely for their own security at the expense of the security of others.

Madame President,

Thailand concurs with the majority of States that there is an urgency to fill a gap in the international legal regime governing weapons of mass destruction. This is compounded by the lack of progress in the implementation of Article VI of the NPT. As a result, we believe the objective of the instrument must prohibit nuclear weapons leading to their total elimination in a transparent, verifiable and irreversible manner.

In light of the above, we hope that these elements will appear in the preamble and be duly reflected in the operative part of the instrument. Additionally, the role of civil society, academia, and international community should be appropriately recognized in the instrument.

Thank you Madame President.

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