Statement by the delegation of Thailand,
at the Preparatory Committee for the Third United Nations Conference to Review the Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat, and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects
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Delivered by
Ms. Jiranut Pitakannop,
Counsellor,
Peace, Security and Disarmament Division,
Department of International Organizations,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand

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Mr. Chairperson,

1. Allow me first to congratulate you on your election as the President of this important meeting as well as to all members of the Bureau. My delegation has every confidence in your leadership and wishes to assure you of our full support.

2. Thailand associates itself with the Statement made earlier by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

3. Nearly two decades have passed since the unanimous adoption of the UN Programme of Action in 2001. The PoA laid the global basis for actions to curb the threats posed by illicit trade in small arms and light weapons as well as their diversion to unauthorized end users, which continues to be factors for conflicts, violence and insecurity, as well as a barrier to the achievement of the SDGs.

4. Thailand values the importance of and remains committed to the PoA. We have been using this global framework to guide our national efforts in setting necessary norms and practices in response to illicit trade and diversion of SALWs. We have also upheld our commitment to submit our national report on a regular basis to ensure transparency and reaffirm our commitment on the PoA.

Mr. Chairperson,

5. We see the issue of stockpile management as a crucial element in the POA implementation. We have several legislative frameworks in place to ensure stringent control over conventional arms stockpile. Recent amendments of regulations include updating definitions of arms to reflect technological advancements and to increase the penalty for offenders. We are also constantly incorporating relevant international standards and practices and the latest marking and tracing technologies into our current practices, while working to encourage a more holistic understanding of stockpile management through emphasis on Life-cycle Management, including throughout the private sector.

6. As a regional hub, Thailand puts strong emphasis on International Cooperation to better understand the network of illicit SALW. We recognize the importance of information sharing, especially with our neighbouring partners and multilateral bodies such as ASEANAPOL, ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), and INTERPOL. We therefore appreciate the role of the UN Regional Centres for Peace and Disarmament in this regard. And as the venue of the PoA RevCon3 Regional Meeting for ASEAN and South Asian States early this month, we see the strong benefit of looking into regional perspectives and engaging in regional outreach on this issue.
7. On **New SALW technology**, Thailand is working to closely keep pace with the latest developments in the field, including the design and manufacturing of arms. Some technologies, such as modular weapons and 3D printing, pose challenges to small arms control, while others, such as an online database of arms and ammunitions, present opportunities to strengthen arms control.

8. The **linkages between SALW and SDGs** also need to be taken into consideration. Small arms have long been a factor in facilitating, escalating and prolonging conflicts. Thailand therefore attaches great importance to the humanitarian impact of conventional weapons. We welcome the integration or incorporation of important security perspectives into development policy as enshrined in the SDGs, especially SDG 16, “Promote peaceful and inclusive societies”. We will continue to bring development, including a gender perspective, to the discussion table on arms control and disarmament. Here, Thailand is of the view that gendered impacts of conflict should be further studied.

9. Thailand also supports the synchronization of related instruments in conventional arms control. The adoption of the **Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)** back in 2013 was a crucial milestone and significant step forward to regulate illicit flow of arms. As a signatory state, we see the ATT and other multilateral instruments as reinforcing and complementing one another.

Mr. Chairperson,

10. The global conventional arms trade is now more complex than ever. Thailand will continue to improve synchronization between agencies and explore new channels for **international cooperation**, especially within the region. We urge all States to continue to discuss and to debate ways to improve our work. This meeting is timely and relevant. It also offers us the opportunity to prepare and formulate understanding on various issues.

11. As there are still many challenges in Thailand’s effective implementation of the PoA, we look forward to learning from other countries about their good practices and experiences in overcoming these challenges.

Thank you.