Statement

by

The Delegation of the Kingdom of Thailand
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at 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

Cluster 1: Disarmament

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Mr. Chair,

1. Thailand aligns itself with the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) States Parties to the NPT. We would like to highlight further at this discussion, our views on a few specific issues.

Mr. Chair,

2. In our General Debate Statement, we mentioned that “the diversity in our perspectives and positions is clear.” Nowhere else under the NPT does this sentence apply more than on the issue of nuclear disarmament. Our discussions on this pillar of the Treaty are strained and its progress slow because we take our differences to heart. But we must remind ourselves that the common views we all share are clear as well.

3. First, we all recognize that the NPT is the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime. This means that we all believe, respect, and aspire to maintain the integrity and sanctity of the Treaty. This also means that we all share the view that it is the obligation of all States Parties to implement the NPT’s provisions, including that of Article VI.

4. For Thailand, the implementation of Article VI of the NPT was advanced in a historic and profound way with the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). Recognizing the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, the TPNW stigmatizes and comprehensively prohibits them, filling a legal gap in the international disarmament regime. It also reiterates the NPT’s safeguards standards and encourages States to strengthen them even further. Additionally, the TPNW provides for victim assistance and environmental remediation, taking forward nuclear disarmament in an even more progressive and relevant manner. Most importantly, the TPNW reflects the collective will of two-thirds of the international community to undertake to achieve unequivocally and unabashedly the goal of a world without nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chair,

5. Another common view we have is our shared desire for peace and security through a nuclear weapon-free world. It was for this reason that we entered into the Grand Bargain together, with nuclear weapon States committing to pursue the elimination of their nuclear arsenals while non-nuclear weapon States agreed never to pursue them. It was also for this reason that we all consented to extend the NPT indefinitely.

6. At this PrepCom, we have heard of a number of ways and approaches to strengthen and move forward the NPT’s disarmament pillar. For Thailand, any initiative, in this regard, must be based on a sense of urgency. They must reaffirm and strengthen implementation of all of the obligations under the NPT and help to set it on a forward course and not a delayed one. It is also our firm belief that all ways and approaches must be pursued in good faith. The concept of negative security assurances should also be reflected as they contribute to building trust and confidence among States, in keeping with the desire for peace and security and the
sentiment of the Grand Bargain. Finally, we must come to a frank understanding of what collective security means, and reexamine and reconsider the reality of maintaining the policy of nuclear deterrence in today’s geopolitical circumstances.

Mr. Chair,
7. The last common view that Thailand wishes to highlight is our shared belief and commitment toward cooperation and dialogue. Being States Parties to the NPT and UN Member States, our faith in multilateralism and diplomacy is implied. But nuclear disarmament along with the other pillars of the NPT can only move forward if we pursue our work through diplomacy and in bilateral and multilateral forums in good faith. Nuclear weapons are indiscriminate and affect everyone, therefore inclusivity must be aspired to and exercised. Civil society, industry, academia, women, youth, etc. – all stakeholders should be engaged in efforts to enable us to reach a world free of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chair,
8. In his Agenda for Disarmament, the Secretary-General reaffirmed that “the total elimination of nuclear weapons remains the highest disarmament priority of the United Nations.” He also noted that “sincere, substantive and results-oriented dialogue must resume” if we want to achieve this goal. Thailand stands ready to work with all parties to this end, for the sake of the NPT and for peace and prosperity in a nuclear weapon-free world.

Thank you.