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THAILAND

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR EKSIRI PINTARUCHI
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND TO THE OPCW
AT THE FOURTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES
PARTIES**

Mr Chairperson,

The fact that we are gathering here today, and the institutional and political circumstances that led up to this point have highlighted the complexity of the challenges facing all of us. Thailand takes part in this special session with belief in the multilateralism conducted within the agreed framework of international norms, through constructive debates and discussions, and with determination towards reaching consensus.

It has been Thailand's consistent position that the use of chemical weapons anywhere, by anyone, under any circumstances, is deplorable and the proven perpetrators of such abhorrent acts must be held accountable.

A number of allegations, or for some, confirmations, of usage of chemical weapons have been made. Doubts and concerns have also been expressed as to whether any of those incidents constitute non-compliance, which would have an undeniable impact on the foundations of the Chemical Weapons Convention, namely its object and purpose and the implementation of its provisions. Therefore, all States Parties, especially those of concern, are under obligation to cooperate in good faith with others and the OPCW, in order to address the situation in accordance with the Convention.

We also acknowledge that the persistent threat posed by non-State actors create an ever-changing challenge to our collective security, and compel us to think carefully and strategically about how we move the Convention forward while ensuring its relevancy.

In this regard, we would like to express our support and appreciation for the professional work done by the Director-General and the OPCW Technical Secretariat. We recognise the important role of the OPCW as the cornerstone of multilateral efforts to prevent the use of chemical weapons through credible verification and analysis.

We strongly support the endeavours and mandates of the Declaration Assessment Team, the Fact-Finding Mission, and the OPCW-UN Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM).

Those instruments, when working in tandem with policy organs and the States Parties concerned, are imperative in ensuring that the use of chemical weapons does not go



unchecked or unrebuked. When the JIM's mandate was not extended, we called on States Parties to come together to constructively address the concerns raised and consider how to renew confidence in the mechanism.

Unfortunately, my delegation is deeply concerned that there seems to be serious disagreement among States Parties on basic facts and legal interpretations as well as incomplete information that have prevented us from reaching a consensual outcome. We also seem to have lost sight of the fact that these disagreements may have a direct impact on those affected by the threats and allegations that have brought us all here to this special session. We must not be driven away from the core cause of the Convention, which is humanitarian in nature.

Looking forward, we call on all States Parties to demonstrate their good faith, and efforts for the effectiveness of the Organisation, through constructive engagement, and work towards greater legal and political clarity while keeping the focus on humanitarian elements of the work of the Convention. Thailand looks forward to working with the OPCW and all stakeholders to meet the Convention's obligations.

I request that my full statement be considered an official document of this Conference and be posted on the OPCW's website. Thank you very much, Mr Chairperson.

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