

**Statement by H.E. Mrs. Eksiri Pintaruchi
Ambassador and Representative of Thailand to the OPCW
at the Fourth Review Conference of the Chemical Weapons Convention
23 November 2018, The Hague, the Netherlands**

Mr. Chairperson,
Mr. Director-General,
Distinguished delegates,

1. At the outset, allow me to congratulate you on your election as Chairperson of the Fourth Review Conference. I am certain that your leadership and wise guidance will bring us to a successful Conference. Please rest assured of my delegation's full support.

2. I also take this opportunity to convey my appreciation to H.E. Ambassador I Gusti A. Wesaka Puja of Indonesia, in his capacity as the Chairperson of the Open-ended Working Group, for his efforts and dedication in the preparation process leading up to this Conference. I would also like to congratulate H.E. Ambassador Fernando Arias on his appointment as the Director-General of the OPCW.

3. Thailand aligns itself with the Statement delivered by Venezuela on behalf of the States Parties that are Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement and China.

Mr. Chairperson,

4. The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) has been and still remains a cornerstone for upholding international norms against the use and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. It is one of the most successful instruments in the global disarmament regime, with near universal membership and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) as the key implementing body - through monitoring, verification, and technical cooperation. However, the norms we all adhere to are now being tested. These challenges must be rightly addressed and this Conference is where we should begin this much needed process.

5. In this context, my delegation would like to share with you, Mr. Chairperson, what we anticipate of the Convention and the OPCW in coming years.

6. First, the CWC must continue to uphold its principles and strive to achieve its long-held objective of the complete elimination of chemical weapons. Its contribution towards global peace and security must be emphasized and strengthened. In doing so, the OPCW must be able to work effectively, comprehensively and independently to deliver its mandates. It is also our shared responsibility, as States Parties to the Convention, to join hands in supporting the OPCW in its endeavor.

7. Second, we must work to ensure the relevancy of the Convention. CWC and the OPCW must be able to effectively address and respond to persisting threats and emerging challenges. States Parties and stakeholders need to work together to see how we can move the Convention forward. Any approach taken should be derived from inclusive discussion with the determination towards reaching consensus.

8. Third, the existence of chemical weapons is a threat against humanity and comes with devastating humanitarian consequences. Thailand therefore reiterates our firm commitment to the Convention and that the use of chemical weapons anywhere, by anyone, under any circumstances, is unacceptable, and perpetrators must be held accountable. My delegation welcomes the progress on the chemical stockpiles destruction as reported by the Technical Secretariat and call on all States Parties to continue to live up to their commitments and intensify efforts in the destruction of remaining stockpiles to fulfill their obligation under the Convention.

9. Fourth, it is important that we look at the CWC from a comprehensive perspective. While the complete elimination of chemical weapons is an unequivocal matter of priority, the technical aspect of the Convention needs to also be emphasized. Thailand commends the OPCW and its Technical Secretariat for its outstanding work in support of the Convention's implementation for the past two decades. We believe that the foundation we have built together must be further enhanced. Cooperation and assistance to States Parties, especially to States in need, must continue in a non-discriminatory and inclusive manner to ensure full and effective implementation. Furthermore, we welcome and support the Director General's effort to enhance greater effectiveness and expertise of Technical Secretariat through inclusive dialogue and consultation with States Parties, including the effort to address the issue of tenure policy, and the promotion of wider geographical and gender balance representation in the organization.

Mr. Chairperson,

10. When the world came together in 1997 to ban chemical weapons, we did so with the confident expectation that such weapons would not again see the light of day in the 21st Century, Sadly, 20 years later, chemical weapons not only continue to exist, but are still being used. The various incidents that occurred recently have casted a pall shadow over the good progress we have made together towards the eradication of chemical weapons, caused a fallout between friends and shattered the consensual atmosphere once enjoyed by the Convention.

11. The decisions adopted at the 4th Special Session of the Conference of States Parties in June and related decisions thereafter have become a contributing factor towards wider political rift. Thailand urges all sides to look ahead to find ways to bring closure to the divide. We must focus on ensuring that all future processes be transparent, inclusive, accountable, and impartial.

12. Thailand hopes that all sides can work together to find common ground and join hands once again towards our common objective of the elimination of all chemical weapons. Until the last chemical weapons are destroyed, our work will not be done. We must learn from the past horrendous chapters in human history when we allowed division to triumph above unity. At this Review Conference, let us seize the opportunity to renew our common pledge in good faith towards working together under this crucial multilateral framework.

Thank you.