

**Statement by H.E. Mrs. Eksiri Pintaruchi
Ambassador and Representative of Thailand to the OPCW
at the Twenty-Fourth Session of the Conference of the States Parties
27 November 2019**

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

1. At the outset, allow me to congratulate you, Excellency, Ambassador Krassimir Kostov, on your election as the Chairperson of this year's Conference. Please rest assured of the Thai delegation's full support. At the same time, my delegation wishes to thank H.E. Ambassador Yoon Young Lee for his contribution as the Chair of the 23rd CSP. I also wish to convey our appreciation to the Director-General, Mr. Fernando Arias, and his team at the Technical Secretariat, for their dedication and continued support in the implementation of the Convention.

2. Thailand aligns itself with the statement delivered by the delegation of Azerbaijan on behalf of the States Parties that are Member States to the Non-Allied Movement and China.

Mr. Chairperson,

3. The progress achieved during the past two decades in chemical stockpiles destruction with the Chemical Weapons Convention's near universality and broad scope of coverage have made it one of the most prominent instruments in the global disarmament and non-proliferation architecture contributing to global peace and security. In this context, Thailand welcomes efforts by all State Parties and appreciates the technical role of the OPCW in strengthening the Convention's implementation driving towards the shared goal of complete elimination of chemical weapons.

4. Despite our strong commitment in upholding the spirit of the Convention, the recurring incidents of uses of chemical weapons and current global political climate as well as rising geopolitical tensions have put us to a test. It is more crucial now than ever to rebuild trusts

and work to ensure that the Convention and the Organization remain relevant and are able to effectively address and respond to persistent and emerging challenges. In this regard, we support the call for consensual adoption of the two proposals for technical changes to Annex on Chemicals of the CWC which will help strengthening organizational framework of the Convention.

Mr. Chairperson,

5. Thailand wishes to emphasize its support for the OPCW to be able to work effectively, independently and in a non-discriminatory manner to deliver its mandates. It is also of equal importance that all States Parties work collectively and in good faith to support the OPCW in its endeavor. We therefore very much hope the Conference would be able to adopt the 2020 programme and budget through consensus to enable the organization to continue carrying out its core tasks.

6. We appreciate and welcome the EC chair's compromised proposal to facilitate discussions on issues related to future work of the organization and look forward to its progress to ensure effective implementation of all aspects of the Convention and efficiency of the organization. My delegation wishes to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to Ambassador I Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja of Indonesia and Ambassador Agustin Vasques Gomez of El Salvador for their dedicated efforts as co-facilitators along the process.

7. Thailand also views that for the OPCW to maintain its effectiveness while meeting multi-facet challenges, internal impasse must be rightly and timely addressed. We believe that a balance and equal representation of States Parties in the decision and policy-making organ of the organization will contribute to a long-term stability of the organization. We therefore welcome the Director General's continued efforts in this regard.

Mr. Chairperson,

8. Thailand reaffirms its commitment to the Convention and will continue to lend its support to the Technical Secretariat in assisting State Parties to fulfill their obligations under the Convention as well as in advancing the technical capability of States Parties and stakeholders. This should continue to be a top priority of the organization in the future, thus, we welcome and support the project to upgrade the OPCW Laboratory to an OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology which

will strengthen technical capabilities of the Organization and prepare States Parties for better response to current threats and challenges.

8. Thailand welcomes the close-knitted cooperation with the OPCW. In September this year, we co-hosted with the Technical Secretariat the Executive Programme on Integrated Chemicals Management. The programme is indeed a useful platform for capacity building and in developing the technical skills required in chemical industry management. We hope that such good collaboration will continue and stand ready to work closely with the OPCW on other areas, in particular, through the work under the Scientific Advisory Board and the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach to enhance awareness among the public and industries on chemical safety and promote utilization of chemical substances for peaceful purposes.

Mr. Chairperson,

9. Although it seems we have come a long way since the Convention entering into force, more still need to be done in order to attain our common aspiration of the world free of chemical weapons. We cannot be complacent but rather redouble our efforts in the pursuit of this shared goal, while addressing all divergences in an inclusive manner to remain united amidst the urgency of our work. In this regard, Thailand reiterates its commitment to support the OPCW and to work with all parties to overcome challenges and ensure the effective implementation of the Convention.

10. In closing, I would like to request that this statement be included as an official document of the Conference.

Thank you.
