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THAILAND

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR EKSIRI PINTARUCHAI
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND
TO THE OPCW AT THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairperson,
Mr Director-General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Thai delegation, I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election as Chairperson of the Conference. Despite the challenges imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, I am certain that your able leadership and guidance will bring the Conference to success.

I also would like to take this opportunity to convey my appreciation to H.E. Ambassador Agustín Vásquez Gómez of El Salvador for his dedication in the capacity of Chairperson of the Executive Council, as well as the Director-General, H.E. Fernando Arias, and the Technical Secretariat for their hard work and contributions in supporting the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (“the Convention”). We stand ready to interact and cooperate with the Technical Secretariat to facilitate the implementation of the Convention.

Thailand aligns itself with the statement delivered by H.E. Mr Fikrat Akhundov of Azerbaijan on behalf of the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement that are States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and China, and would like to add the following remarks in our national capacity.

The Convention has been contributing significantly to global efforts in preventing the use and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Thailand welcomes the progress of destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles as well as production facilities. Our work under the framework of the Convention clearly contributes to the promotion of peace and security. Thailand therefore has attached importance to the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of the Convention.

On our part, Thailand remains committed to the obligation under the Convention in all of its provisions. The use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere, and under any circumstances is not acceptable and the perpetrators should be held accountable.



Thailand therefore regrets that there are increasing reports on the use of chemical weapons. We take note of the OPCW report on the investigation of the case of Mr Alexei Navalny. It is our shared responsibility, as States Parties to the Convention, to enhance the efforts to eliminate the use of chemical weapons and to ensure full and effective implementation. Thailand supports and encourages the constructive cooperation and dialogues among States Parties under the Convention's framework.

In order for the OPCW to be able to effectively address and respond to persisting threat and emerging challenges posed by chemical weapons, it is important for the OPCW to have well-equipped facilities that can effectively respond to these new challenges and develop the technical skills required in chemical industry management. Therefore, Thailand contributed a total amount of THB 450,000 to the Secretariat for its implementation of the OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology project. We are confident that the project will play an important role in strengthening institutional and personnel capacity to cope with challenges from new forms of chemicals and technologies.

Thailand believes that in order to achieve effective chemical safety and security, continuous exchange of knowledge and best practices between domestic stakeholders and the international community is essential. Cooperation among States Parties and stakeholders is also vital to prevent misuse of science and technology as well as dual-use goods. The OPCW plays an essential role in strengthening the capacity of States Parties in order to prepare and respond to any chemical-related challenges. Thailand supports information-sharing sessions or regional workshops to serve as important platforms to enhance our capabilities and prepare against the use of chemical weapons, and promote effective implementation of the Convention.

The Convention has come a long way, contributing substantively to our global security architecture for the past twenty years. The total elimination of chemical weapons is a goal within reach, but beyond that, is the goal of sustainable peace and security. Thailand looks forward to working with the OPCW and all stakeholders to meet the Convention's obligations and together realising our desired goal.

Thank you.

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