



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THAILAND
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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Statement

by

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Minister Counsellor,

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**at the Thematic Discussion on Other Weapons of Mass Destruction
before the First Committee of the 77th Session
of the United Nations General Assembly,**

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**Mr. Chair,
Distinguished delegates,**

1. Thailand aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of NAM and ASEAN.
2. It has been almost a century since the world agreed to put a stop to chemical and biological weapons with the birth of the 1925 Geneva Protocol in which Thailand was proud to have been involved in the negotiations and subsequently became State Party in 1931. This important Protocol, *among others*, was the forerunner to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) and Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC).
3. However, we continue to face the risks and threats associated with WMDs that remains very real and, in some respects, are indeed increasing. The extensive availability of sophisticated scientific and technological tools has also raised serious concern of the impact of such weapons. Moreover, the astonishing loss of human life resulted from COVID-19 also reminds us of our vulnerability and under-preparedness to such novel pathogens.

Mr. Chair,

4. We must continue our consolidated efforts and do more. Biological and chemical weapons must not be used by anyone, at any time, under any circumstances. In this regard, Thailand wishes to reiterate the following three points.
5. First, upholding obligations under existing international instruments for disarmament and non-proliferation remains key to effective collective security responses.
6. Thailand opposes all use of chemical weapons and reiterates the importance of the effective and transparent implementation of the CWC as we commemorate the 25th anniversary of the entry into force of the CWC this year. We wish to commend the work of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in carrying out its missions, including investigation, verification and destruction of chemical weapons, especially under challenging circumstances caused by COVID-19.

7. Thailand reaffirms our commitment to the implementation of BWC. To improve its effectiveness, we believe that it is time for strengthening BWC by equipping it with more effective verification mechanisms to allow swift responses to the growing global biological threats. This will be a meaningful and practical step to manage emerging risks.

8. Second, it is imperative that the international community continue its efforts to reinforce non-proliferation regime, including through strict adherence to UN Security Council Resolution 1540. We welcome fruitful discussions at the open consultations on the Comprehensive Review this year, and hope that the inputs will feed into further strengthening implementation of the Resolution.

9. Thailand is honored to co-host, together with UNODA and Japan, the “UNSCR 1540 (2004) Workshop for ASEAN States” this past September which emphasized the role of capacity building and strengthening regional coordination on the implementation of the Resolution.

10. Moreover, ASEAN continues to strengthen border management cooperation as it seeks to enhance regional connectivity. We encourage States Parties to develop effective national export control systems, and to explore ways to strengthen border security, including by synchronising existing practices.

11. Third, while Thailand fully supports the peaceful and legitimate use of biochemical research and industry, we believe that States hold an important responsibility in placing control on dual-use items by developing guidelines and standards to promote bio and chemical security.

12. In view of the growing connectivity and integration of the single market and production base within the ASEAN Community, we see the importance of promoting the free flow of goods, services and investments in a manner that is stable and secure. To help achieve this, our priority is to effectively control dual-use items and the transfer of technology, while fostering engagements with the private sector.

13. On its part, Thailand will continue to review and strengthen our export control system, perform on-site inspections, and submit annual declarations. At the global level, we are committed to the implementation of all UNSC resolutions related to this issue.

Mr. Chair,

14. In closing, Thailand wishes to reiterate our commitment to non-proliferation and disarmament of all WMDs. We will continue to exert our utmost effort in implementing necessary measures to comply with our obligations. It is within our shared responsibility to keep the world safe and secure from the devastating effect of such weapons.

Thank you.
