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Statement by

H.E. Mr. Cherdchai Chaivaivid,
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of Thailand to the United Nations,

at the General Debate of the First Committee,
the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly

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Chair,

1. Let me congratulate you and the members of the Bureau on your election and assure you of Thailand's full support.
2. Thailand aligns itself with the ASEAN statement.
3. The work of this Committee is critical to international peace and security. We share a common goal: a safer and more secure world for all. **Much progress has been made, but we are now seeing retreat.** In 2025, the UN documented one civilian death every 14 minutes in armed conflicts, nearly double the figure in 2022. We must redouble our efforts and rebuild the trust on which progress depends.

Chair,

(Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation)

4. Thailand remains **firmly committed to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)**. It is deeply regrettable that the Review Conference failed to reach an outcome for the third consecutive time. Moving beyond this impasse requires **restored trust, political will and balanced implementation of all three pillars**, not least disarmament, where progress has lagged furthest behind.
5. Article VI of the NPT obliges all States Parties to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to nuclear disarmament. In that spirit, **the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) complements the broader disarmament and non-proliferation architecture** and provides a platform for States and other stakeholders to advance transparent, verifiable and irreversible disarmament, while addressing grave humanitarian and environmental consequences.
6. Thailand looks forward to the **first Review Conference of the TPNW** under the presidency of South Africa. As an informal co-facilitator with Ireland on **complementarity**, we will work to deepen the mutual reinforcement between the TPNW and other disarmament and non-proliferation instruments so that legal commitments translate into concrete action.
7. As depositary of the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone, the Bangkok Treaty, Thailand reaffirms its commitment to securing legally

binding negative security assurances under the Treaty's Protocol. We urge the nuclear-weapon States **to sign and ratify the Protocol without reservations**.

8. Thailand welcomes **the comprehensive study of the question of nuclear-weapon-free zones** prepared by the group of qualified experts, on which a Thai expert served. **We encourage all States to take its recommendations forward**, including by strengthening cooperation among existing zones and supporting the establishment of new ones.

Chair,

9. We call for sustained dialogue among States possessing nuclear weapons, including efforts to conclude a successor framework to the **New START Treaty**. **Transparency and risk reduction measures** must go hand in hand with disarmament efforts to build confidence and reduce nuclear risks.

10. This year marks the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). Thailand calls on all States to maintain existing **moratoria on nuclear explosive testing and sustain the effective functioning of the Treaty's verification regime**. We urge the remaining **Annex 2 States** to sign and ratify the Treaty without further delay.

(Other weapons of mass destruction)

11. Thailand supports the full implementation of the **Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)** and the work of the **Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)**. Thailand reiterates its firm position against the use of chemical weapons, by anyone, anywhere, and under any circumstances, while promoting the peaceful scientific application.

12. Ahead of the **2027 Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) Review Conference**, Thailand has actively engaged as a Friend of the Chair to strengthen the Convention. We support the establishment of an international cooperation and assistance mechanism that avoids duplication and makes the best use of existing resources, and helps State Parties strengthen their national implementation. We support a science and technology advisory mechanism to address emerging biosecurity risk as well as a pragmatic approach to compliance and verification.

Chair,

(Conventional weapons)

13. Guided by **international humanitarian law,** Thailand maintains its long-standing commitment to **humanitarian disarmament**. The use of any weapon must, in all circumstances, strictly adhere to the principles of **distinction, proportionality and precaution.**

14. As a State Party to the **Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC)**, Thailand has cleared over **99.5 percent of its mine-contaminated areas. Thailand also** currently serves on the **Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance**, sharing expertise in clearance, risk education and victim assistance.

15. Yet the continued use of anti-personnel mines, coupled with instances of **non-compliance, suspension and withdrawals by States Parties, weakens a norm that has saved countless lives.** Thailand calls on all States to uphold the Convention's principles and join us in building a mine-free world.

16. Thailand also attaches importance to the **Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)** and, as a signatory, continues to engage constructively in treaty deliberations. We support the **UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)** and the **Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management**.

Chair,

(Emerging technologies and AI in the military domain)

17. While recognising the potential of AI as a force for good, its integration into decisions on the use of force raises fundamental questions of **human accountability and responsibility**. One principle must remain clear: decisions of life and death must stay under human control and comply with international law, including international humanitarian law (IHL).

18. Thailand supports the work of **the Group of Governmental Experts on lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS) under the CCW**. We also welcome the third **REAIM Summit in Spain and encourage continued international discussions on responsible use of AI in the military domain.**

19. The same principle applies to nuclear weapons. The integration of AI into **nuclear command, control and communications** (NC3) increases the risks of miscalculation and unintended escalation. We call on all States possessing nuclear weapons to commit to keeping all decisions on nuclear use under human control.

(Other disarmament measures and international security)

20. Thailand promotes responsible State behaviour in cyberspace and has integrated relevant norms into national regulatory frameworks, including the Cybersecurity Act (2019). We will continue to engage constructively in the Global Mechanism on ICTs in the context of international security and underline that **capacity-building and international cooperation are essential** to closing the digital gaps and ensuring equitable access to technologies.

(Outer space (disarmament aspects))

21. On outer space, Thailand supports the work of the **Open-Ended Working Group on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space in All Its Aspects (PAROS)** and looks forward to a consensus outcome that strengthens transparency and confidence-building measures to prevent an arms race and support international cooperation, working in synergy with **the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).**

Chair,

22. **Trust is built by upholding rules, honouring commitments and delivering results.**

23. Thailand will continue to work with all delegations to **strengthen the disarmament architecture**, so that this Committee delivers for the people whose security depends on it.

I thank you.

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