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**THAILAND**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. DR VIRACHAI PLASAI PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND TO THE OPCW AT THE  
NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

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

At the outset, allow me to join other delegations in congratulating Your Excellency Ambassador Vesela Mrđen Korać of Croatia, for your election as Chairperson of the Nineteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties. Under Your Excellency's leadership, my delegation and I are confident that this present session will successfully achieve the outcomes desired. The Thai delegation also extends its appreciation to the outgoing Chairperson, Ambassador Dr Sa'ad Abdul Majeed Ibrahim Al-Ali of Iraq for his chairmanship of the Eighteenth Session, during which time much progress has been achieved.

Let me also express my delegation's appreciation to His Excellency Director-General Ahmet Üzümcü and the Technical Secretariat for the exceptional work of the OPCW in the past year. With many ongoing challenges, including physical dangers, the OPCW has shown continued dedication to achieving the object and purpose of the Convention. Thailand congratulates the OPCW on the many achievements this past year. We reiterate our pledge of full support for the Director-General and the OPCW as they tackle future challenges.

I also wish to state that the Kingdom of Thailand fully associates itself with the statement delivered by H.E. Dr Alizera Jahangiri, Ambassador of Iran, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement States Parties and China.

In the past year, the international community continues to be faced with armed conflicts, unrests, humanitarian crises and rising tensions around the globe. Despite our relentless efforts to seek peaceful and just resolutions to these difficult situations, challenges remain. As an integral part of our concerted response, indeed, there is the joint commitment to cooperation in various international frameworks and implementation of legal instruments such as the Chemical Weapons Convention. In this regard, the Kingdom of Thailand recognises that the continued existence of all types of weapons of mass destruction poses a grave threat to international peace and security, and reiterate our unequivocal position calling for their complete elimination. As for chemical weapons in particular, we strongly condemn their use, as well as the use of toxic chemicals as a weapon, by any party anywhere in the



world, and reiterate that all States Parties have the obligation to cooperate among themselves and with the OPCW in order to address this kind of situation in strict accordance with the Convention. We also firmly believe that complete and timely elimination of chemical weapons, under effective international control, must remain a top priority for the OPCW. On our part, we will continue to render our full support to the work of OPCW and the effective and non-discriminatory implementation of the Convention.

The Kingdom of Thailand also attaches great importance to the universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention. Only with universal adherence to and implementation of the Convention will we be able to rid the world of the potential harms of chemical weapons. In this regard, we call on the remaining States not Party to the Convention to consider ratifying or acceding to it without delay.

The Kingdom of Thailand notes with satisfaction the significant and continuing progress in the destruction of chemical weapons and related materials that were found in or removed from the Syrian Arab Republic. We commend the joint efforts by OPCW and the United Nations in the verification and destruction of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic. We are pleased to note that the cooperation between these two organisations will continue, although their Joint Mission has completed its mandate. We appreciate the assistance extended by States Parties in hosting destruction activities of the identified chemicals removed from the Syrian Arab Republic. In this regard, we encourage the Syrian Arab Republic to continue to render its full cooperation to the OPCW and the United Nations, which is necessary for the elimination of chemical weapons and their production facilities in the country.

The Kingdom of Thailand notes with great interest the progress in relation to the destruction of 12 chemical weapons production facilities in the Syrian Arab Republic. We urge all relevant parties to continue to work together constructively and with perseverance in order to accelerate the process and ensure successful destruction of the aforementioned facilities without further delay.

The Kingdom of Thailand is committed to full and effective implementation of the Convention. At the national level, we are currently developing a National Chemicals Inventory, aimed at accounting for the quantity and locations of hazardous chemicals in the country. This new inventory, with close cooperation between our National Authority and the Thai Customs Department, will enable effective monitorisation and control of exports, imports and domestic transfers of such chemicals. Furthermore, we are planning on formally sharing the data contained in this National Chemicals Inventory with the Comprehensive Export Control system currently being developed by the Thai Ministry of Commerce. Formal integration of data between the two systems will contribute to more efficient and effective control measures of hazardous chemicals. Our National Authority has also been fully cooperating with the OPCW with regard to our annual declaration of past and anticipated activities as well as inspections under the Convention in the country.

At the international level, we wish to stress that there are still gaps in the way the Convention is implemented among States Parties, which is due to insufficient technical knowledge and capacity. This problem must be addressed. International cooperation among the National Authorities in sharing data on imports and exports of scheduled chemicals should be promoted. Networking and sharing best practices among National Authorities will enable them to more effectively monitor and control scheduled chemicals. Through this information

sharing, the National Authorities will be better equipped to identify and avoid any discrepancy between the quantities of scheduled chemicals declared by importing and exporting States Parties.

We believe that the OPCW has a meaningful and central role and duty to play in capacity building and technical assistance. This should continue to be a top priority for the Organization in the future, especially in the post-destruction phase. In particular, we urge more cooperation in the field of chemical activities, including the exchange of scientific and technical information as well as chemicals and equipment, in accordance with Article XI. We maintain our view that such cooperation will be of great benefit to many States Parties, especially those with developing economies. In this regard, we commend the OPCW's continued efforts in organizing capacity-building activities under its international cooperation programmes.

Let me conclude by assuring you, Madam Chairperson, of Thailand's commitment to work closely and constructively with other States Parties and the OPCW towards the success of this Conference and the attainment of the goals of the Convention. I also wish to request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Nineteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

I thank you.

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