



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

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Statement

by

H.E. Mr. Tana Weskosith

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at

**at the High-level Plenary Meeting to Commemorate and Promote
the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons**

26 September 2019

The United Nations, New York

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Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of my delegation, I wish to join other colleagues in commending the initiative in organizing this event, which provides us the opportunity to take stock of our commitments and accomplishments while reflecting on what we still need to do.

Mr. President,

Over the past 50 years, members of the global community have aspired for a world free of nuclear weapons. This is marked by meaningful milestones, such as the adoption of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the conclusion of bilateral agreements on nuclear disarmament. These achievements have given us hope that we are on the right track towards the realisation of our goal.

As we stand here today, amidst heightened tensions between States, threats from non-State actors and erosion of trust and commitments, the road ahead seems rocky and filled with pitfalls. However, we must not let such challenges deter us from moving forward. Rather, we must redouble our efforts in the pursuit of our noble aim.

Despite the lack of progress on nuclear disarmament, the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) on 20 July 2017 was indeed a cause for celebration and something we should be proud of. The Treaty truly reflects a global call to rid the world of these terrible weapons. It is now the time we turn the momentum into concrete actions. Therefore, as a ratifying State to the Treaty, Thailand calls for all States to sign and ratify the Treaty at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. President,

Thailand believes that dialogue and discussion on this humanitarian agenda must not end here at the United Nations or at this commemorative event. This very effort must go beyond the UN and translate into awareness and actions at all levels – academia, youth, civil societies, governments and the general public. It is important that the efforts towards a nuclear weapons free world are inclusive and universally mobilized. Only then could we hope to make our dream a reality.

Mr. President,

The threat of nuclear weapons and their catastrophic consequences are real; so is our strong desire to put an end to them. On this day, the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, let us reaffirm our commitments and move forward together, as partners, and as a community. Only together, we can finally make our voices heard and our actions counted. Thailand stands ready to work with all partners in this endeavour.

Thank you.

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