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Statement

by

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**before the Sixth Committee
of the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

**Agenda Item 109:
Measures to eliminate international terrorism**

New York, 7 October 2019

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Mr. Chair,

Thailand would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you, Mr. Chair, and all members of the Bureau on your elections and to assure you of our full support for the work of the Sixth Committee throughout this seventy-fourth session. We look forward to engaging actively and constructively in the deliberations of this Committee. We also wish to express our appreciation to the Secretary-General for his annual report on this agenda item.

In this regard, Thailand aligns itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished representative of Cambodia on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the distinguished representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

Terrorism knows no borders and constitutes one of the most serious and imminent threats to international peace and security. All acts of terrorism are a clear violation of human rights. They also hinder the global collective effort to achieve sustainable development. That said, Thailand joins the international community in condemning all acts of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and remains fully committed to combatting this fast evolving threat at all levels.

To that end, Thailand has been continuously working to strengthen its domestic legal frameworks and measures. Thailand's **National Counter-Terrorism Strategy 2017-2021** continues to guide relevant authorities in improving our ability on the prevention of, response to, and recovery after the occurrence of terrorist acts. **Preventing and countering of violent extremism** is one of the key elements incorporated in the Strategy to deter terrorism.

It is my honour to announce Thailand's most recent development in this area. The **Control of Items related to the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction Act** will enter into force in January next year, with the aim to prevent and deter the proliferation of all WMD-related items, tangible or intangible, including dual-use items. Such law will be implemented by the Ministry of Commerce, seeking to control any exports, re-export, transshipment, transit, brokerage and any other activities that may be linked to the proliferation of WMD-related items. This is a concrete example of multi-sectoral collaboration to fight terrorism on all possible fronts.

Thailand strongly believes that counter-terrorism financing continues to be one of the most effective means to combat terrorism at its root. Thailand's **Prevention and Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction Act**, in force since 2016, allows us to incorporate UNSC lists of terrorism- and WMD-related entities into the Thai law, which contributes to the effective implementation of our counter-terrorism financing measures and strategies.

Mr. Chair,

At the regional level, Thailand remains committed to the full and effective implementation of the **2007 ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism**, the region's key legal framework to combat terrorism as part of the ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint. In its capacity as the current Chair of ASEAN, Thailand will continue to work closely with other ASEAN Member States to foster stronger cooperation in various areas under the ASEAN Counter-Terrorism Convention. In this regard, Thailand welcomes the recent adoption of the **Terms of Reference for ASEAN "Our Eyes" Initiative** at the 13th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) earlier in July this year. We are of the view that this Initiative will serve as an intelligence exchange platform to counter terrorism and violent extremism in the region and further complement the **ASEAN Plan of Action to Prevent and Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism 2018-2025**.

Thailand also attaches great importance to cooperation beyond ASEAN. In this regard, Thailand, in partnership with Australia and Indonesia, hosted the **4th Regional Counter-Terrorism Financing (CTF) Summit** in November 2018 in Bangkok, with the aim to further strengthen information sharing among regional Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) in the Asia-Pacific region.

Earlier in May, Thailand ratified the **2005 International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism**. This marks the 12th counter-terrorism related international legal instrument to which Thailand became a party. In addition, Thailand is working towards becoming party to the remaining universal legal instruments.

Lastly, Thailand stands ready to cooperate with all Member States and the United Nations to translate the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy into real action. In this regard, as part of this goal, it is my delegation's sincere hope that the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) will be materialised. We look forward to continuing the discussion in this year's Working Group.

Mr. Chair,

We are firm in our conviction that only through international cooperation and strong international legal frameworks can any country or region effectively fight against terrorism.

To win this fight, we must therefore redouble our efforts, rethink our strategies and give more attention to the preventive side. In the age of disruption, we must tackle illicit financial flows and resources financing terrorist groups and their unspeakable terrorist activities, halt of the spread of hateful ideologies, radicalisation and violent extremism, eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, promote justice, uphold the rule of law, uplift the livelihood and well-being of the people while ensuring their social and economic inclusion, and make available quality education for all in all communities. No one ever deserves to be left behind.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.
