



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

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Statement by

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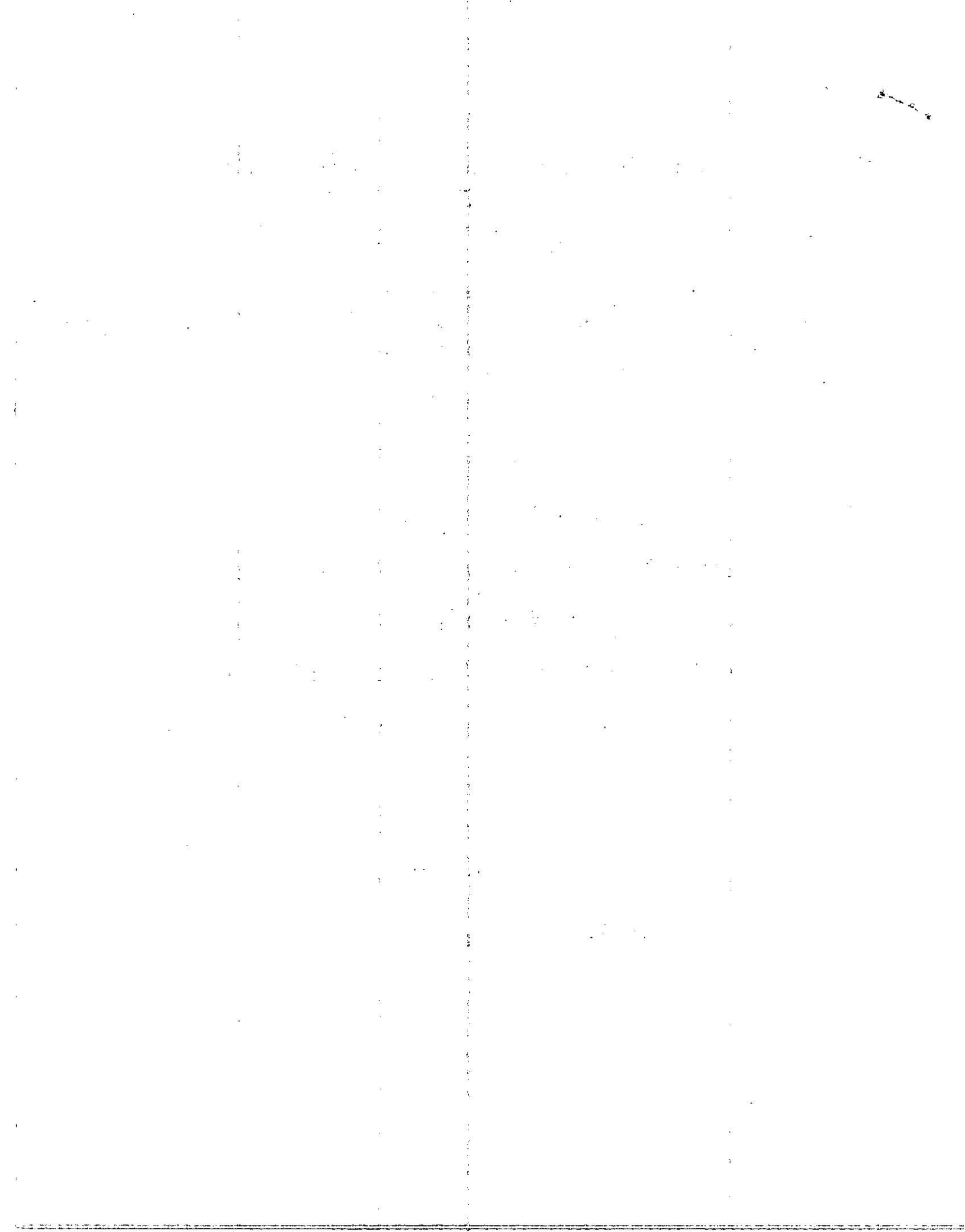
at the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly

on Nuclear Disarmament

26 September 2013

United Nations, New York

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Mr. President,

Mr. Secretary-General,

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to thank you, Mr. President, and the Secretary-General for your important remarks at this morning's opening ceremony. My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by H.E. the Foreign Minister of Myanmar on behalf of the member states of ASEAN as well as the statement delivered by H.E. the Foreign Minister of Iran on behalf of NAM.

Like many taking the floor before me, I would also like to express my delegation's satisfaction at this first ever convening of the General Assembly on this important topic of nuclear disarmament.

Through this High-level Meeting, we the member states of the United Nations are expressing in no uncertain terms that disarmament and non-proliferation are issues of global concern. We reiterate here today that nuclear weapons pose the greatest threat to our collective peace. Furthermore, the consequences of any use of nuclear weapons make it incumbent upon us to seek any and all opportunities to collectively make progress towards a world free of nuclear weapons.

Mr. President,

The Conference on Disarmament is the only formal venue for multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations, and we need to see progress in its work. We support and commend the recent efforts of the Open Ended Working Group to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations

with an aim to overcome the present stalemate. At the same time, as Observers to the Conference, it is Thailand's continued hope that transparency and inclusiveness of the Conference can be further promoted and realized.

Mr. President,

Thailand is an active proponent of the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones which we see as contributing positively to nuclear disarmament and the maintenance of international peace and security. In our own region of Southeast Asia, we have agreed on Southeast Asian region as a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone and a zone free of all other weapons of mass destruction. We will continue to engage and encourage all Nuclear-Weapon States to accede, at the earliest, to the Protocol of the Bangkok Treaty.

At the same time, we also underscore the importance of the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in other parts of the world. In the Middle East, especially, we are now witnessing profound changes which threaten to impact international peace and security. We, therefore, appeal to all parties and continue to express our continued support to the convening of the Conference on the establishment a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, despite the numerous setbacks we have seen.

Mr. President,

In just a few days, the work of the First Committee will commence in earnest. Let us together take this opportunity to keep advancing. As this High-level Meeting serves to reinvigorate us politically, let us redouble our efforts in all forums towards the realization of world free of nuclear weapons.

I thank you.

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