Intervention by the Delegation of Thailand on the merged draft reports of MC1 and SB1, 14 May 2015, 15.00 hrs.

Mr. Chair,

Thank you and the Chair of SB1 and the team for the immense efforts in merging the draft reports of MC1 and SB1. It is a difficult task and we appreciate your care and attention to ensuring a fair representation of the discussion that could serve as a basis for an engagement in the next step.

We note with a measured level of satisfaction, the inclusion of a reference to the statement delivered by Austria on behalf of 159 States Parties of the NPT on the Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons. It clearly underlines that we are dealing with an issue that enjoys the support of an overwhelming number of States Parties that simply cannot be pushed aside.

With all due respect, however, we are a little disappointed, Mr. Chair, that the most important points we and the majority of NPT States Parties intervened upon, are not reflected in the document. Yet issues that were raised by one or two delegations, enjoy their place in the merged document we have before us. But allow me to confine myself at this stage to two points.

First, we heard intervention after intervention that there exists a legal gap in international law on nuclear weapons. Yet, we do not find it clearly stated anywhere in the document. This is a factual assessment of the current situation, and we stand ready to work with delegations on wording.

Second, let me remind delegations that, Mr. Chair, beginning a process to negotiate a legally binding instrument today does not mean we will have such an instrument tomorrow. We would like to believe that could happen, but we are realistic. Mr. Chair, we believe that beginning a process to negotiate a legally binding instrument means the following;

- It means that we, the NPT states parties, nuclear-weapon states and non-nuclear weapon states ALIKE, are living up to our obligations under Article VI,

- It means that we are responsible enough to realize that beginning such a process would salvage the credibility of the NPT that has unfortunately taken a beating since the last review cycle,

- It means that we are responsible enough to our future generations to take the FIRST step. To come together to agree to BEGIN a discussion that will finally signal that we as humanity have evolved beyond the Cold War mentality.
Mr. Chair, it has been 70 years since nuclear weapons were used. Can we not be courageous enough to say that we will begin in earnest, **FINALLY**, to discuss how to address, the very last weapon of mass destruction left without any legal prohibition? This request is not propaganda, not unreasonable, not illogical, not far-fetched and in our view, very acceptable. It is long overdue and it is a responsible first step.

And it takes minor amendments to the current Para 19 in the first two lines. Replace “encourages” with “calls on”, “engage” with “BEGIN” and delete “in”. So it would read, “The Conference calls on all States to begin, without delay, within the framework of the United Nations disarmament machinery, an inclusive process to identify and elaborate effective measures for the full implementation of Article VI (and the para continues).”

Once again, we look forward to engaging with all delegations on this issue in a constructive manner in the following days.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.