Mr. Chair,

At the outset, on behalf of the Thai delegation, I would like to congratulate you on your election as chairperson of the 2019 Meeting of States Parties. We are confident that, under your able leadership and experience, you will guide us to constructive deliberations and a successful meeting. Please rest assure of my delegation’s full support. We would also like to convey our sincere appreciation to the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) for its hard work and support.

Thailand associates itself with the statement made on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) as well as the ASEAN joint statement delivered earlier.

Since its entry into force in 1975, the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) has become a cornerstone of the global WMD disarmament and non-proliferation regime. It has served as a solid foundation in upholding the norms against the biological misuses and threats, while encouraging the peaceful applications of bio-science and technology.

Thailand is of the view that the norms and notions of the Convention should be preserved and continued to be strengthened, particularly in the current atmosphere where threats from non-State actors are growing and the development of science and technology are more complex. It is therefore our shared responsibility, as States Parties, to reaffirm our commitments and fulfill our obligations. This is to ensure that the Convention remains relevant and can effectively address and overcome these demanding challenges.

Thailand’s commitment to the Convention remains unwavering. We have consistently and continuously work to ensure that our national practices and implementation are in line with the Convention’s obligations as well as responsive to technological development and evolving challenges.
We have submitted our Confidence-Building Measure (CBM) reports on a regular basis to ensure our comprehensive and transparent implementation.

Thailand also attaches importance to regional and international cooperation. During 6 – 7 June 2019, Thailand is honored to co-host with the UNODA and the ISU the Regional Workshop for the ASEAN States Parties to the Biological Weapons on Preparedness to Respond to the Deliberate Use of Biological Weapons, which is a part of Southeast Asian regional workshop series. The workshop was indeed a vital platform in enhancing regional capacities and preparing against the use of biological weapons.

To continue advancing the BWC implementation, a collective effort is required from all parties – States, national agencies, civil societies, industry, academia, and scientists. We also need to streamline these efforts in order to facilitate better coordination and effective implementation of the BWC and other instruments under the disarmament and non-proliferation pillars. Thailand looks forward to furthering our cooperation with all States and stakeholders in this regard.

Thailand believes that constructive and consensual deliberations are vital elements in advancing the work of the Convention. The Inter-Sessional Programme (ISP) and Meeting of Experts (MX) serve as key platform for substantive discussion and exchanges on important agenda of the Convention. We hope that these meetings will bring about concrete and positive outcomes that will contribute towards the strengthening and effective implementation of the Convention.

Lastly, Thailand reaffirms our strong support to the Convention and stands ready to work with all parties towards the accomplishment of our shared objectives and towards the sustaining peace and security of our community.

Thank you.