

General Statement
by
Mr. Wichai Chaimongkhon
Secretary-General, Narcotics Control Board
Ministry of Justice of Thailand
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Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Royal Thai Government, I would like to extend our appreciation to the Chair for your leadership and to the Secretariat for organizing this session.

It is good to be here in-person, seeing a great number of participants this year.

In countering the massive illicit manufacture of synthetic drugs in the Mekong Sub-region, Thailand emphasizes the importance of cooperation on precursor chemicals control. We encourage close monitoring and prevention of the diversion of chemicals including non-controlled substances, particularly sodium cyanide, benzyl cyanide, and benzyl chloride recently found in the Golden Triangle.

Due to successful cooperation in the region, a large amount of drug and chemicals have been seized. Thailand would thus like to stress the importance of lending support, including financially, from all partners, to the lower Mekong countries in applying proper and environmentally-friendly handling and disposal of the seized drugs, precursors and related chemicals.

Following the 2016 UNGASS outcome document, Thailand has stepped up our efforts in legal reform by adopting rights and health-based drug policy, resulting in the new Narcotics Code, among others, to promote voluntary drug treatment and enhance asset forfeiture measures.

To achieve the SDGs, Thailand believes that development-oriented drug policy should be promoted through the implementation of the alternative development project, taking into account measures to protect the environment, recognizing local communities, as well as ensuring access to land and market. We hope to receive full support from all Member States, as we have in the past sessions, and invite co-sponsorships for the resolution on alternative development tabled by Peru, Germany, and Thailand. We would also like to take this opportunity to invite you all to visit our exhibition situated in the Rotunda.

In conclusion, by upholding international drug policy commitments with full respect of the principles of equal rights,

common and shared responsibilities, Thailand confirms its determination to extend its membership to the CND for 2024 to 2027.

Thank you.