STATEMENT

Mr. Thanakorn KAIYANUNTA,
Deputy Secretary-General, NCB
Office of Narcotics Control Board, Ministry of Justice, Thailand

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Thank you, Mr. Chair, as addressing the meeting for the first time, I would like to thank you and the secretariat for organizing this intersessional meeting in preparation to the 2024 CND mid-term review of the implementation of all international drug policy commitments.

Thailand is well-aware of the challenge of expanding and diversifying range of drugs and drug markets, particularly affected by the Illicit production and manufacture of drugs in the Golden Triangle, amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences. In addressing the complex drug market, we align ourselves with the recommendations contained in the 2016 UNGASS outcome document by stepping up efforts in legal reform over the last decade, resulting of the new single Narcotics Code, taken effect on 9 December 2021, integrating twenty-four narcotics laws into the single code.

With this new dimension to address drug problems, Thailand adopts the health-based approach by considering a drug addict as a patient, giving priority to the health and safety of the people by promoting harm reduction, voluntary drug treatment and rehabilitation including decriminalizing drug use and community-based treatment as well as imposing proportionate punishment and alternative to punishment by taking into account human rights principles. Value-based confiscation has also been put in place as an additional measure on arresting and disrupting the financial cycle of major drug offenders.

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