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Agenda item 99 (y)

General and complete disarmament: Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (Bangkok Treaty)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 4 December 2023

[*on the report of the First Committee (A/78/409, para. 89)*]

78/39. Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (Bangkok Treaty)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 66/43 of 2 December 2011, 68/49 of 5 December 2013 and 70/60 of 7 December 2015, entitled “Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (Bangkok Treaty)”,

Welcoming the desire of the South-East Asian States to maintain peace and stability in the region in the spirit of peaceful coexistence and mutual understanding and cooperation,

Noting the entry into force on 15 December 2008 of the Charter of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations,¹ in which it is stated, inter alia, that one of the purposes of the Association is to preserve South-East Asia as a nuclear-weapon-free zone, free of all other weapons of mass destruction,

Welcoming the convening by Indonesia of the third Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia on 24 April 2015, and encouraging the convening of the fourth Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia in line with its resolution 73/71 of 5 December 2018, as well as its decision 74/549 of 13 April 2020 and decision 75/575 of 29 July 2021,

Reaffirming its conviction of the important role of nuclear-weapon-free zones, established, where appropriate, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among States of the region concerned and in accordance with the Disarmament Commission

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2624, No. 46745.



guidelines of 1999,² in strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime, in contributing towards realizing the objectives of nuclear disarmament and in extending the areas of the world that are free of nuclear weapons, and, with particular reference to the responsibilities of the Nuclear-Weapon States, calling upon all States to seek a safer world for all and to achieve peace and security in a world without nuclear weapons in a way that promotes international stability and based on the principle of undiminished security for all,

Convinced that the establishment of a South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone, as an essential component of the Declaration on the Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality, signed in Kuala Lumpur on 27 November 1971, will contribute towards strengthening the security of States within the Zone and towards enhancing international peace and security as a whole,

Noting the entry into force of the Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone³ on 27 March 1997 and the twenty-sixth anniversary of its entry into force in 2023,

Welcoming the reaffirmation of South-East Asian States that the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone shall continue to play a pivotal role in the area of confidence-building measures, preventive diplomacy and the approaches to conflict resolution as enshrined in the Declaration of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Concord II (Bali Concord II),⁴

Expressing concern over the declining commitment and cooperation in global non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament mechanisms, and calling upon countries, especially Nuclear-Weapon States, to fully implement their commitments under these mechanisms, including in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,⁵

Welcoming the submission of the memorandums on activities⁶ relating to the Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone as background documents for the ninth and tenth Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

Reaffirming the inalienable right of all the parties to the Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

Recognizing that, by signing and ratifying the relevant protocols to the treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones, nuclear-weapon States would undertake individual legally binding commitments to respect the status of such zones and not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against States parties to such treaties,

Recalling the joint communiqué of the fifty-sixth meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, held in Jakarta on 11 and 12 July 2023,

Recalling also the applicable principles and rules of international law relating to the freedom of the high seas and the rights of innocent passage, archipelagic sea

² Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 42 ([A/54/42](#)), annex I, sect. C.

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1981, No. 33873.

⁴ [A/58/548](#), annex I.

⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

⁶ [NPT/CONF.2020/16](#) and [NPT/CONF.2015/23](#).

lanes passage or transit passage of ships and aircraft, particularly those of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,⁷

1. *Welcomes* the commitment and efforts of the Commission for the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone to further enhance and strengthen the implementation of the Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (Bangkok Treaty) by implementing the Plan of Action to Strengthen the Implementation of the Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (2023–2027), adopted in Phnom Penh in 2022, with a renewed commitment and a stronger emphasis on concrete actions, and the decision of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Political-Security Community Council, established under the Charter of the Association, to give priority to the implementation of the Plan of Action;

2. *Recognizes* the intention of States Parties to the Bangkok Treaty to continue exploring the possibility of allowing individual Nuclear-Weapon States which are willing to sign and ratify the Protocol to the Bangkok Treaty without reservations and provide prior formal assurance of this commitment in writing to go ahead with the signing, to welcome any Nuclear-Weapon States that are ready to do so, and the commitment of the States Parties to the Bangkok Treaty to continuously engage all the Nuclear-Weapon States, including those with reservations, and intensify efforts of all parties to resolve all outstanding issues in accordance with the objectives and principles of the Bangkok Treaty;

3. *Underlines* the value of enhancing and implementing further ways and means of cooperation among the States Parties to nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties and the protocols thereto, with a view to strengthening the non-proliferation regime and to contributing towards realizing the objective of nuclear disarmament;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its eightieth session, under the item entitled “General and complete disarmament”, the sub-item entitled “Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (Bangkok Treaty)”.

42nd plenary meeting
4 December 2023

⁷ Ibid., vol. 1833, No. 31363.