Statement

by

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Ambassador and Permanent Representative

of Thailand to the United Nations

at the General Debate of the First Committee

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Please check against delivery
Mr. Chairman,

Allow me, at the outset, to join other delegations in congratulating you and other members of the Bureau on your election.

My delegation wishes to also associate ourselves with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the statement to be made later on by the distinguished representative of Myanmar on behalf of the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations.

Mr. Chairman,

Last year, in this hall, many delegations including mine, expressed concerns over the slow pace of disarmament, violations of non-proliferation commitments, and the threat of weapons of mass destruction falling into the hands of terrorists. We had hoped that the 59th Session of the General Assembly and the year 2005, the so-called year of UN Reform, would offer a renewed phase of cooperation.

What has happened throughout the year unfortunately tells us of another story. Not only did we witness the failure of the once-in-half-a-decade NPT Review Conference, but we also failed to include any measures to strengthen the disarmament and non-proliferation regime in the Summit Outcome Document. In addition, the impasse of the Conference on Disarmament and United Nations Disarmament Commission remains unresolved.

To overcome this deadlock, my delegation would like to once again stress that both disarmament and non-proliferation should be addressed in a constructive and balanced manner. We, both nuclear-weapon states and non-nuclear weapons states, have a ‘shared responsibility’ to carry out our roles in disarmament and non-proliferation.

Development and Disarmament

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation notes with concern the continued growth of the global military expenditure, at the expense of resources which could have been used for development. In his recent report of the work of the Organization, the Secretary-General alerts us that the global military expenditure exceeded 1 trillion USD in 2004 and is projected to keep rising. The relationship between disarmament and development is obvious to us. We therefore support the central role of the United Nations in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. We also encourage the
international community to contribute the resources made available as a result of
disarmament and arms limitation agreements to economic and social development.

*Weapons of Mass Destruction*

**Mr. Chairman,**

Thailand has a firm policy not to develop, possess, acquire or proliferate,
test or transfer nuclear weapons and related materials. Thailand places high
importance to the implementation of its obligations as a State party to the NPT,
CWC and BWC as well as a number of bilateral, regional and multilateral efforts
and agreements on non-proliferation, including through the establishment of the
nuclear-weapon-free-zone in the Southeast Asian region.

As far as the threat of weapons of mass destruction falling into the
possession of terrorists is concerned, Thailand supports the implementation of the
UNSC Resolution 1540 and has rendered full cooperation to other friendly
countries in opposing nuclear proliferation and illicit trafficking, and in
strengthening capacity building on export control. In this regard, my delegation
welcomes the adoption by the General Assembly of the long-negotiated
*International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism* and
is pleased to report that Thailand has become a signatory of the Convention since
14 September 2005. Thailand is now strengthening its domestic legislation and
measures to secure and physically protect nuclear materials against theft, sabotage
or access by the unauthorized persons. We also welcome the decision of the
Diplomatic Conference held in Vienna in July 2005 to amend the *Convention on
the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM)*. The Government is
reviewing these specific amendments with a view to acceding to the Convention at
the earliest.

On the *Additional Protocol*, Thailand considers the *Additional Protocol* as a
confidence-building measure and an effective international verification system to
provide assurances of peaceful uses of nuclear equipment and dual-uses. We see the merit of making the *Additional Protocol* a new
verification standard. In this connection, Thailand is pleased to report that we have
concluded and signed the "*Additional Protocol*" with the IAEA on 22 September
2005. Thailand will spare no efforts to fully implement the *Additional Protocol*
once the constitutional requirements for its entry into force are met.

**Mr. Chairman,**

My delegation has been following closely the situation in the Korean
Peninsula as it entails implications for the stability of the entire Asian region and
beyond. In this regard, my delegation welcomes the Joint Statement of the Fourth
Round of the Six-Party Talks issued in Beijing on 19 September, and wishes to congratulate all parties concerned for their tireless efforts. It is my delegation’s hope that the parties concerned would fully implement their obligations.

Comprehensive-Test-Ban-Treaty (CTBT)

Having participated in the Fourth Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the CTBT last month, my delegation fully welcomes the Conference’s Final Declaration and measures to promote the entry into force of the Treaty. On our part, the Royal Thai Government is now in the final stage of amending and enacting domestic laws and regulations in order to ratify the Treaty. The ratification process is expected to be completed within this year 2006.

As one of the countries hard hit by the Tsunami last December, my delegation also welcomes the ongoing application of the CTBT verification system, in particular the International Monitoring System (IMS), for its scientific and civil benefits, and as it applies to tsunami warning systems. My delegation pledges our full support to enable the Preparatory Commission for the CTBT to develop and turn this initiative into concrete action.

Conventional Weapons

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation views problems posed by misuse of conventional weapons as one of the serious threats to peace, security and development. Such problems incure grave human cost and greatly affect human security.

In addressing the illicit trade, proliferation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALWs), my delegation attaches great importance to the full implementation, at national, regional and international levels, of the 2001 United Nations’ Programme of Action on SALWs. My delegation looks forward to the formal adoption and full implementation of the draft international instrument to enable states to identify and trace, in a timely and reliable manner, illicit SALWs, concluded by the Open-Ended Working Group in June this year. It is my delegation’s hope that the discussion that will take place during the upcoming Programme of Action’s Review Conference in July next year will bring about concrete outcomes, including ways and means to address the problem of ‘ammunition’, and will chart future direction for the international community to address the problem of illicit SALWs more effectively.

My delegation is also heartened to see the reference on the Ottawa Convention in the Summit Outcome Document and supports the implementation of the elements contained therein. Thailand also welcomes the Nairobi Declaration
and Nairobi Action Plan as well as the recent ratification of Vanuatu as the 147th State Party.

To arrive at a full and effective implementation of the instruments and agreements on SALWs and landmines, my delegation hopes that States in a position to do so, as well as the private sector and NGO community, will spare no effort in rendering assistance to States in need.

**Improving the effectiveness of the methods of work of the First Committee**

**Mr. Chairman,**

Last but not least is the issue of improving the effectiveness of the methods of work of the First Committee. My delegation is pleased to see the progress on this issue and welcomes the adoption by consensus of the resolution 59/95 on this matter. The resolution has set out a number of practical measures to strengthen the effectiveness of our work. My delegation hopes that this resolution will be implemented in its entirety, together with the three significant GA Revitalization resolutions of 58/126, 58/316, and the recently adopted 59/313.

My delegation also welcomes the improvement in the participation of the Register of Conventional Arms and the Reporting of Military Expenditure as well as the national report on SALWs. My delegation wishes to also suggest that a simple reporting format be established for all resolutions requiring information from Member States, to enable the Member states to more effectively and systematically provide information to the Secretariat. The *Standardized Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures* serves, in this regard, as a good example.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, my delegation wishes to pledge our full support and cooperation to you throughout the course of our deliberations. I thank you.