Joint General Statement

by

Mrs. Siriporn Chaimongkol
Minister Counsellor
Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations

on behalf of the Informal Group of Observer States
to the CD
before the First Committee
of the 65th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

New York
28 October 2010

Resolution A/C.1/65/L.34:
Follow-up to the high-level meeting held on 24 September 2010:
revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament
and taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiation

Resolution A/C.1/65/L.57:
Report of the Conference on Disarmament
Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the Informal Group of Observer States to the Conference on Disarmament, I have the honour to make the following general statement with regard to two draft resolutions.

First, on the draft resolution A/C.1/65/L.34: “Follow-up to the High-level Meeting held on 24 September 2010 – Revitalizing the Work of the Conference on Disarmament,” the Informal Group expressed in our joint statement during the HLM our sincere anticipation that the HLM would reinvigorate the essential political will that would enable the actual revitalization of the work of the CD. We also expressed our hope that the HLM would lead to concrete follow-up activities. For this reason, we support the initiative by Austria on the draft resolution. We hope that it will help to mobilize the much-needed political will in order to move the CD forward.

In general, we see that the UNGA has strong potential to support the work of the CD. The proposal to include the item on revitalizing the work of the CD in the provisional agenda of its 66th session is a concrete step forward. At the same time, we wish to stress that any UNGA follow-up activities should aim at strengthening the CD and maintaining its integrity as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum.

Mr. Chairman,

Now may I turn to the draft Resolution A/C.1/65/L.57: Report of the Conference on Disarmament. The Informal Group of the Observer States to the CD takes this opportunity to express our appreciation to Cameroon for preparing the draft resolution. We wish to reiterate that the principle around which the Observer States to the CD formed the Informal Group earlier this year was to enhance our engagement with the CD. It is a shared aspiration of the Group that transparency and inclusiveness be strongly promoted within the CD. We have indeed appreciated the engagement that the CD presidents have extended to our Group over the past year.

In this regard, we are pleased that the letter from the Group to the President of the CD regarding our activities was reflected as an official CD document as well as in paragraph 24 of the UNGA report A/65/27, to which is referred in the draft resolution. Although we were disappointed that our activities during the past year were not reflected more clearly, we considered it best for us to support the CD report as it stands in the spirit of cooperation.
At the same time, the Group welcomes the repeated calls on the CD during the HLM by many states, both members and Observers of the Conference on Disarmament, for the CD to seriously consider the issue of expansion. In the Group's joint statement at the HLM, which Thailand also delivered, we urged the CD members to seriously consider appointing a Special Coordinator on the Expansion of the Membership when the CD resumes its session in 2011. We wish to express our appreciation to the UNSG for reflecting this view in his summary of the HLM, but we regret that our call was not endorsed in the draft resolution A/C.1/65/L.57: Report of the Conference on Disarmament before us. Nevertheless, in the spirit of cooperation once again, we will join the consensus to support this draft resolution.

Mr. Chairman,

The Informal Group of Observer States to the CD reiterates the call for continuing discussion on the issue of membership of the CD. We remain hopeful that the CD will appoint the Special Coordinator on Expansion of the CD when it resumes its work in 2011. It will certainly provide a starting point towards serious consideration of the issue of expansion.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

* * * * *