Statement

by

Ms. Karntimon Ruksakiati
Minister Counsellor
Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations

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Thematic Debate “Conventional Weapons”

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Mr. Chairman,

1. First of all, Thailand would like to associate itself with the Statement made earlier by the distinguished delegate of the Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

Mr. Chairman,

2. Although conventional weapons are the most common type of armament globally and the most often used in conflict, the international community has paid less attention to regulate the transfer of these types of weapons compared to the efforts made regarding weapons of mass destruction. Bearing this in mind, Thailand would like to begin by expressing our satisfaction with the significant progress made in the area of multilateral conventional arms over the past year. Although, some of the progresses made have not yet been translated into concrete actions, they certainly provide a good basis and momentum for the future discussion on how to curb the proliferation of conventional arms.

Mr. Chairman,

3. Thailand welcomes the outcome of the 2
nd Review Conference of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (UN PoA) held in New York during 27 August – 7 September 2012. We would like to reemphasize that an effective national mechanism is needed for the successful implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument (ITI) requires not only a strong national commitment but also considerable resources. As an importing country of small arms and light weapons (SALW,) Thailand would like to urge the exporting countries to engage more actively in enhancing such mechanisms, particularly by providing technical support. Given a transnational nature of the threat posed by SALW, we believe that strengthened cooperation between the importing and exporting countries is essential for the mechanism to work in a comprehensive and sustainable manner.

4. In this regard, Thailand would like to once again express our appreciation to the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD) for supporting our initiative to organize the upcoming workshop entitled “Building Capacity and Overcoming Language Barriers in SALW Control” scheduled to be held during 11 – 13 December 2012 in Bangkok.

5. Thailand also hopes that a successful conclusion of the 2
nd Review Conference of the UN PoA will not only enhance an effective implementation of the UN PoA and the ITI, but will also further provide a vital momentum for the international
community to strengthen the multilateral conventional arms control efforts, especially to join our efforts to finalize a strong and robust Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) to curb the illicit international transfer of conventional weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

6. Although it was regrettable that the UN Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty ended its four-week negotiation last July without a successful conclusion on the final document, the Thai delegation has never been discouraged. Thailand has always been committed to the ATT process since its outset in 2006 and is of the view that the process is the most significant development in the area of multilateral conventional arms transfer thus far.

7. In this regard, Thailand would like to join a number of delegations in calling for a way forward to continue our negotiations for a strong and robust treaty, in order to build on the momentum achieved last July. We also share the view that the Conference had produced an outcome which we could try to build upon at the future meeting. Therefore, we would like to support the use of the Chair's draft of the ATT dated 26 July 2012 as a basis for further negotiations.

Mr. Chairman,

8. Thailand fully supports the international effort to ban inhumane weapons, especially anti-personal landmine and certain types of cluster munitions. As a state party to the Mine Ban Convention, Thailand commits to fulfill its obligations under the convention, especially in the clearance effort. In this regard, we welcome the successful conclusion of the 11th Meeting of the State Parties (MSP) held in Phnom Pehn in December last year and, look forward to a successful conclusion of the upcoming 12th MSP in December this year in order to review the mid-term progress made on implementing the Cartagena Action Plan. In this regards, we are pleased to share that Thailand will host a side event during the Meeting with an aim to share our best practices and lessons learnt in the area of Victim Assistance and Social and Economic Reintegration.

Mr. Chairman,

9. In closing, Thailand urges the international community to maintain the positive momentum gained over the past year and, exercise their political will as well as flexibility to move forward with a multilateral effort to tackle the proliferation of conventional arms.

I thank you. Mr. Chairman.