Remarks
by
H.E. Mr. Thani Thongphakdi
Chairperson of the Open-ended Working Group
Taking Forward Multilateral Nuclear Disarmament Negotiations
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand
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Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, I wish to express my most sincere appreciation for the trust and confidence you have placed in me. Please be assured that I will spare no efforts to guide this group to a successful conclusion and I will very much rely on your cooperation and assistance in this endeavour. Let me reiterate once again my firm intention to work in an open, transparent and inclusive manner with a view to achieving an outcome that is acceptable to all.

The topic of nuclear disarmament has been on the agenda of the United Nations ever since its establishment. Already the first resolution adopted by the General Assembly in 1946 established a Commission to, inter alia, make proposals for "the elimination from national armaments of atomic weapons and of all other major weapons adaptable to mass destruction."

Seven decades later, the potential proliferation and use of nuclear weapons continue to endanger all peoples and nations. Despite the reductions that have taken place since the end of the cold war, some 16,000 nuclear warheads and fissile material for the production of tens of thousands of additional nuclear weapons are still an unfortunate reality of our world.

Nuclear disarmament is not a utopian dream, but the legitimate aspiration of all peoples and nations. It is for this very reason that this topic is being considered in so many different fora within and outside the UN.

This particular group provides us with another valuable opportunity to address what are the key elements and what should be done to achieve and maintain a world without nuclear weapons. As stated by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on the occasion of the International day for the total elimination of nuclear weapons in 2014 “What matters most is not which path is taken, but that the chosen path is heading in the direction – towards the internationally agreed goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons”. Let’s not miss this opportunity.

Thank you.

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