



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THAILAND
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

351 EAST 52ND STREET • NEW YORK, NY 10022

TEL (212) 754-2230 • FAX (212) 688-3029

Statement

by

H.E. Khunying Laxanachantorn Laohaphan

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand

to the United Nations

at the General Debate of the 61st Session

of the UN General Assembly, First Committee

New York, 6 October 2005

Please check against delivery

Draft Statement
by H.E. Khunying Laxanachantorn Laohaphan
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations
61st Session First Committee General Debate
6 October 2005, United Nations, New York

Madam Chair,

Allow me, at the outset, to join other delegations in congratulating you on your election as the Chairperson of the First Committee. May I also extend my felicitations to the members of the Bureau on their election as well. As a woman myself, I personally welcome women's leading role in the United Nations this year, from the President of the General Assembly to yourself. Madam Chair, you have without a doubt a challenging task ahead of you, however, my delegation is optimistic that with your experience and able leadership, you would be able to effectively guide the direction of our works in the First Committee to a successful session.

Thailand aligns ourselves to the statements made early this week by the distinguished representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and by the distinguished representative of Myanmar on behalf of the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations or ASEAN .

Madam Chair,

The 61st Session of the General Assembly convenes under heightened global anxiety about the threat from weapons of mass destruction. Arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation are issues of concern to Member States. During the general debate, both in Plenary and in the First Committee during the past weeks, Member States expressed concern over non progress on disarmament issues, the global threat posed by armed conflicts and threat of terrorism.

In particular, Member States voiced concern over the lack of progress in the multilateral machinery dealing with disarmament issues, the World Summit Outcome Document failed to include provisions on disarmament and non-proliferation, and last year NPT Review Conference was concluded without progress on their substantive agenda items. To cap it all, the recent United Nation Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in July this year could only adopt a procedural report without a substantive outcome document.

Madam Chair,

Nuclear weapons, along with other kinds of Weapon of Mass Destruction, never discriminate civilians from otherwise. With their devastating and merciless impact, such weapons should by no means be used against humankind even as a last resort. As a non-nuclear weapon state, Thailand believes that both disarmament and non-proliferation are both faces of a single coin and should be addressed in a constructive and balanced manner. Both nuclear-weapon states and non-nuclear weapon states have equal and shared responsibility to see to it that both the NPT and the CTBT are in full implementation. As for Thailand, the Thai Government is in the progress of amending domestic laws and regulations in order to ratify the CTBT after the process has been completed.

Madame Chair,

While addressing the issue of WMD as a matter of grave concern, we should remind ourselves that the proliferation of small arms and light weapons are also a serious threat to international peace and security. It was estimated that 60 to 90 percent of deaths in violent conflicts are caused by small arms. The risk posed by SALW is compounded by its link to terrorism and transnational organized crimes including drug trafficking. Thailand therefore attaches great importance to the prevention and suppression of illicit trade of small arms and light weapons and is fully committed to the UN Programme of Action. The Thai Government was able to achieve satisfactory progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action, however, there are states whose progress require technical and/or international financial assistance. In this regard, the international community should provide assistance to these countries in order to enable them to fulfill the objective of the Programme of Action.

Madam Chair,

There are more than half a million people in Thailand exposed to the risk of landmines. As a party to the Mine Ban Convention, Thailand is doing its utmost to fulfill our commitment as required by the Convention despite our limited resources.

As an affected country, we can speak with authority the humanitarian impact of landmine and the high cost of mine clearance. Therefore, Thailand wishes to emphasize the importance of international assistance to mine-affected countries with limited capacity for them to overcome the serious threat of landmine and enable their people to live free from fear. The importance lies not only in assistance in stockpile destruction and mine clearance, but also in humanitarian assistance provided to mine victims and their families.

Madam Chair,

Terrorisms are spreading and active in many parts of the world. Delay in negotiations on the issue of disarmament and non-proliferation risk having weapons of mass destruction falling into the hands of terrorists. By completely eliminating weapons of mass destruction, could we ensure that these weapons will not be delivered to terrorist hands.

Madam Chair,

At a time when the state of affairs in global disarmament negotiations looks less than optimistic, we must not let our resolve be weakened and instead seek to break the impasse by working collectively and constructively to address the issue. Thailand remains committed to the UN as the multilateral negotiating mechanism on disarmament and hope that, in the coming weeks, with our collective efforts, ingenuity and political will, progress could be achieved. In this regard, Madam Chair, I assure you of my delegation's fullest support and cooperation.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

*****<*****