



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

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**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**HIS EXCELLENCY MR. CHIRACHAI PUNKRASIN**

**DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THAILAND**

**TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE GENERAL DEBATE**

**OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE**

**NEW YORK, 15 OCTOBER 2007**

**Please check against delivery**

Mr. Chairman,

1. Allow my delegation first to congratulate you on your well-deserved election as Chair of the First Committee, and to extend my appreciation to Mr. Sergio Duarte, the Secretary-General's High Representative for Disarmament Affairs for his inspiring statement and important work. My felicitations also go to all members of the Bureau for their contributions. We are confident that, under your able leadership and wealth of experience, you will effectively guide our deliberations in the First Committee towards successful outcomes.

2. Thailand aligns itself with the statements made earlier last 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 Southeast Asian Nations.

Mr. Chairman,

3. The First Committee and the 62<sup>nd</sup> Session of the General Assembly convene once again at the time when our world remains troubled by longstanding threats and unsolved conflicts. I recall that during the General Debates two weeks ago, the overriding themes were concerns over climate change, natural disasters, the scourge of diseases and epidemics, energy shortage, poverty, and clashes of civilizations. These new and existing challenges are grim reminders that we need to hasten our efforts to resolve pending issues that have long threatened international peace and security. There is no better way to start than by overcoming differences and focusing on common purposes, so that we can move on to tackle those new difficulties facing humankind.

4. While we have made numerous in-roads on non-proliferation issues, we join other delegations in expressing disappointment over the mixed outcomes and moderate progress in disarmament efforts during the past year. We welcome, among others, positive developments in the Korean Peninsular and the workplan between IAEA and Iran, which count as major steps in non-proliferation progress. However, our main concerns still lie in the persistence of armed conflicts and the spread of terrorism, particularly their growing relevance to the spread of weapons of mass destruction. As well, the international community has increasingly witnessed the insidious linkage between violent conflicts and lack of development. It is therefore our belief that disarmament and non-proliferation efforts will not meet with success unless political commitment and economic development are also taken into perspective.

Mr. Chairman,

5. Weapons of Mass Destruction remain at the core of humanity's fears and insecurity, especially for those who do not possess them. Yet we continue to witness setbacks and non-progress in several major fora that were set up to

contain their spread and misuse. However, as it would be unproductive to dwell on the regrets over stalemates in the Conference on Disarmament and the negotiations on Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty, we encourage these meetings to resume their important work on stemming the production and export of fissile materials, and on other issues such as negative security assurances and the weaponisation of outer space. Also, since disarmament agenda cannot proceed without the effective machinery, we reiterate the views expressed by the Non-Aligned Movement and the Association of South East Asian Nations calling for the reconvening of the Open-ended Working Group to push forward substantive sessions of the Fourth Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament (SSOD IV). In this connection, we also appreciate the important role of the United Nations Disarmament Commission in striving to make SSOD IV build on the concrete achievements of the First Special Session.

6. As a State Party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty since 1972, Thailand wishes to see the strengthening of the NPT through non-selective implementation and full compliance with NPT obligations by all States Parties in all the Three NPT pillars. It is our strong wish that future NPT Preparatory Committees focus on reaching substantive results and avoid being set back by procedural impasse. For the NPT regime to meet the security needs of its Parties, and to recognize the sacrificial compromise made by non-nuclear-weapon States to give life to this architecture, we must ensure that pragmatism prevails over procedural or political disagreements. Thailand welcomes this new review cycle, and looks forward to participating in the 2010 Review Conference.

7. Nuclear arsenals and missiles are not the only types of WMD that pose alarming threats to international security. Biological and chemical weapons possess equally destructive capability and hence require an equally effective control regime. As State Party to both the Biological Weapons and the Chemical Weapons Conventions, Thailand welcomes the BWC's successful intersessional work programme adopted at its Sixth Review Conference late last year in Geneva, particularly the enhanced focus on national implementation through the recent set-up of the Implementation Support Unit. Likewise, Thailand views the CWC's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its entry into force as a sign of its maturation, a step closer to near universality, and continued relevance as part of the non-proliferation regime.

8. Needless to say, progress on our disarmament agenda will not be complete without the entry into force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, which remains one of the rare successes and is yet to ripen. While Thailand is in the process of ratifying this important instrument, we wish to welcome the Final Document and practical measures adopted during the 5<sup>th</sup> Conference to promote the CTBT's entry into force held last month in Vienna. In particular, we welcome the Final Document's description of a comprehensive ban on nuclear testing as "effective measure of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects".

9. Thailand wishes to bring to your attention that it has been over a decade since ASEAN established the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone Treaty or SEANWFZ. Earlier this July, ASEAN adopted a comprehensive SEANWFZ Plan of Action in Manila as roadmap to set the directions and collective actions to further strengthen the Treaty. As we celebrate the Treaty's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year, we welcome China's readiness to sign the SEANWFZ Protocol and encourage other Nuclear Weapons States to do the same to strengthen the Treaty. Thailand would also like to take this opportunity to invite all States to support this year's draft General Assembly resolution on SEANWFZ Treaty.

Mr. Chairman,

10. As we strive towards a nuclear-weapon-free world, we should not forget the fact that the issue of energy security has grown into a growing concern for international community. Countries around the world are now constantly reminded of their dependence on non-renewable fossil fuels. As non-nuclear-weapon state, Thailand views the peaceful uses of nuclear energy from the perspective of national economic development, and as an inalienable right guaranteed by the NPT, to which we are a Party. Last month in Vienna, Thailand delivered a Statement at the International Atomic Energy Agency's 51<sup>st</sup> Regular Session announcing our process of drafting the National Nuclear and Radiological Energy Plan. As founding Party and current member of the IAEA's Board of Governors, Thailand works very closely with the Agency in seeking ways to harness peaceful uses according to our sustainable development policy. We have given full compliance with IAEA regulatory Safeguards and verification systems, as well as signing the Additional Protocols.

11. While nuclear and other types of WMD remain the larger threats that overshadow our aspiration for peace and freedom from fears, we also witness an unjustifiable number of deaths and injuries from small arms and light weapons, particularly those possessed by criminal and terrorist groups or illicitly transferred for unauthorized use. Thailand fully supports the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. In particular, we stress the importance that States deserve assistance and cooperation to implement the UN Programme of Action. We recognise the importance of the Convention of Certain Conventional Weapons as international legally-binding instrument on conventional weapons transfers. Based on this belief, we support the work of the Group of Governmental Experts in enhancing international cooperation, and the gathering momentum towards the Arms Trade Treaty.

Mr. Chairman,

12. This year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Mine Ban Convention. While many lives and limbs continue to be lost as a result of these indiscriminate weapons, we are encouraged to see a burgeoning norm against its use—and that more and more countries make a noble decision to comply with this multifaceted

international convention to destroy their stockpiles and clear existing minefields. We call on all States to work together towards finding alternative defense systems that do not pose such humanitarian dangers. On our part, we reaffirm our continued efforts in the areas of victim assistance and we look forward to the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties to Convention this November in Jordan.

Mr. Chairman,

13. Considerable momentum has been created over many decades to advance our disarmament and non-proliferation agenda, yet it remains insufficient to prevent setbacks and stalemates that could have been avoided through genuine political will and real actions. Nevertheless, Thailand believes that these difficulties are not insurmountable if they are addressed collectively in the spirit of goodwill and compromise. Despite the lack of progress on some fronts, we should not let ourselves be complacent. Nor should we dwell too long on regrets or cynicism. And nor should we think about what we will lose until we become oblivious to what we stand to gain together. Let us then renew our commitment to pursue in good faith negotiations leading to the total elimination of nuclear weapons based on the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice.

14. It is Thailand's wish to conclude our Statement on a positive note by emphasizing that our common disarmament efforts should not overlook the principles of multilateralism, non-discrimination, and supremacy of international laws. Lastly, I wish to again reaffirm our readiness to work under your guidance and to reiterate the importance of partnership and solidarity. I wish the First Committee every success in its deliberations. And I have every confidence that our work here will contribute in meaningful and substantive ways to our common goals in disarmament and sustainable international peace and security.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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