



**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**

**His Excellency Mr. Chirachai Punkrasin**

**Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative**

**of Thailand to the United Nations**

**at the General Debate of the First Committee**

**of the 63rd Session of the UN General Assembly**

**New York, 9 October 2008**

**Please check against delivery**

Mr. Chairman,

1. At the outset, please allow my delegation to congratulate you on your election as Chair of the First Committee. With your able guidance and leadership, we are confident that the outcome of our deliberations will be successful.

My congratulations also go to all members of the Bureau.

2. Thailand associates itself with the statements made previously by His Excellency the Ambassador of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and by His Excellency the Ambassador of Myanmar on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. In its national capacity, Thailand would like to share some additional views on disarmament issues.

Mr. Chairman,

3. The work of this Committee underpins the security pillar of the United Nations. A world of peace and security is in our collective interest, and its advancement rests upon our shoulders. The agenda before us may be immense, but I have trust in the ability of all distinguished colleagues to show good judgment and flexibility to reach our common goal. In the spirit of cooperation the Thai delegation will render its fullest support to the endeavours of this Committee. In this regard, I wish to highlight a number of issues to which the Royal Thai Government has accorded priority in this 63<sup>rd</sup> Session.

Mr. Chairman,

4. Thailand is gravely concerned about the illicit trade, proliferation, and trafficking of SALW. SALW are crucial tools in the operations of transnational crimes, drug trafficking, and terrorism. Violence associated with the use of SALW has devastating consequences on human rights, human development, and human security.

5. Thailand faithfully implements the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW (UN PoA) at both national and regional levels to curb the proliferation of SALW. Thailand cooperates with other ASEAN countries to prevent transnational criminal syndicates and terrorist groups from acquiring SALW. We believe the International Tracing Instrument is an effective mechanism that enables States to identify and trace, in a timely and reliable manner, the transfer and trade of illicit SALW.

Mr. Chairman,

6. Thailand is convinced that armed violence negatively impacts conditions conducive to development. Accordingly, Thailand has adopted the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development and joined the Core Group in promoting the implementation of the Geneva Declaration in June 2006.

7. Thailand and Switzerland, in collaboration with the UNDP, organized the Asia-Pacific Meeting on Armed Violence and Development in Bangkok in May this year. The outcome of the Meeting was the adoption of the Asia-Pacific Declaration on Armed Violence and Development (Bangkok Declaration) by 23 countries. More recently, at the Ministerial Review Summit on Armed Violence and Development held in Geneva last month, the 85 countries participating in the Summit reaffirmed that development, peace and security, and human rights are interlinked. They also highlighted the indispensable role of national, regional and international development policies in the prevention of armed violence.

Mr. Chairman,

8. It goes without saying that SALW can have as equally a devastating impact on global peace and security as WMD.

9. Thailand is fully committed to the disarmament and non-proliferation of all types of WMD. We have joined all key international treaties and conventions and have complied with all obligations and commitments under these instruments, as well as the relevant UNSC resolutions.

10. With regard to the global nuclear non-proliferation regime, Thailand is fully committed to the implementation of the NPT. We take note of the conclusion of the Second PrepCom for the 2010 NPT Review Conference, held in Geneva in May this year. My delegation hopes that this can help pave the way for further progress on consensus building, particularly for the Third NPT PrepCom next year. In assessing the accomplishments of the NPT obligations, however, we do see the need to strike a balance among the issues under all clusters namely non-proliferation, disarmament, and peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

11. The Second Review Conference of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) held in April this year underscored the progress toward a world free of chemical weapons. Nevertheless, the failure to destroy all chemical weapons within the agreed deadline of 2015 will erode the credibility and effectiveness of the CWC. Thailand, therefore, reiterates our call upon possessor countries to eliminate their stockpiles within the set timeframe.

12. Thailand commends the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) for its work on advancing the agenda of biosafety and biosecurity and welcomes the fruitful outcome of the recent Meeting of Experts of the BWC this past August.

Mr. Chairman,

13. Turning now to major safeguards and verification issues, Thailand supports the international community's effort to find a peaceful solution to the Iran nuclear issue through diplomatic means. While we fully support every NPT party's inalienable right to peaceful uses of nuclear energy, we believe that all three pillars of the NPT must be equally upheld. We therefore call on Iran to fully cooperate with the IAEA, especially in light of the latest report of the Director-General presented to the Board of Governors last week. At the same time, we urge all parties concerned to continue with constructive dialogue and to refrain from confrontation.

14. With regard to the DPRK, Thailand shares with the international community an interest to see a peaceful, stable and denuclearized Korean Peninsula. We note with concern the recent decision of the DPRK to re-activate its nuclear facilities at Yongbyon. This step backward is regrettable. We call on the DPRK to allow IAEA inspectors back into the country to continue their verification work at the earliest opportunity. Diplomatic efforts through the Six-Party Talks and other fora are urgently required to avert further worsening of the situation.

15. Thailand has long been an active proponent of the Bangkok Treaty establishing Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone or SEANWFZ. Last year marked the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of SEANWFZ. It is the first and currently the only nuclear weapon-free zone treaty of its kind in Asia and has been signed by all 10 ASEAN member countries. SEANWFZ underpins the non-proliferation and nuclear safety regime in Southeast Asia. In light of the essential contribution of SEANWFZ to the security of the region and Asia as a whole, the draft resolution on SEANWFZ was overwhelmingly supported at the 62<sup>nd</sup> Session of the General Assembly. It is Thailand's earnest hope that nuclear weapon states would be able to become party to the SEANWFZ Treaty in the near future.

Mr. Chairman,

16. Thailand recognizes the threat of terrorists acquiring WMD and joins in the international effort to counter WMD proliferation. Later this month, Thailand will co-organize with the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs the Regional Workshop on UNSC Resolution 1540 Implementation in Bangkok.

Mr. Chairman,

17. It is incumbent upon this Committee to make a perceptible contribution to the advancement of the global disarmament agenda. A more stable and secured world is the basis for a more prosperous world. My delegation reaffirms its full collaboration under your guidance and will actively engage with all countries to bring about a successful conclusion of this session.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.