



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

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**Statement by  
His Excellency Mr. Norachit Sinhaseni  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand  
to the United Nations**

**at the General Debate of the First Committee  
64<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly  
New York**

**7 October 2009**

*Please check against delivery*

Mr. Chairman,

1. Allow me first of all, to express my congratulations to you, Ambassador Cancela, on your election to the chairmanship of the Committee. We are confident that with your vast experience and skill, this Committee will be smoothly steered to a successful outcome. My congratulations also go to all members of the Bureau.

2. Thailand associates itself with the statements made by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and by Myanmar on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Mr. Chairman,

3. The work of this Committee is instrumental in promoting international peace and security. Today, threats to peace and international security are multi-faceted and require all countries to respond to them in concert. Disarmament is a fundamental answer for effective reduction in armed conflict and risks posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction as well as conventional arms.

4. The rationale behind disarmament is clear and simple: the more numerous and powerful weapons become, the greater the risks to peace and stability. Science has given man the power to wreak devastation on an unprecedented scale, through weapons of mass destruction – nuclear, biological, and chemical. Much less powerful but perhaps deadlier in real life, due to their availability, are the conventional weapons, including small arms, which account for the majority of combat casualties in the world.

Mr. Chairman,

5. This year has brought several positive and encouraging developments, including the United States-Russia agreement on a treaty to replace the START Treaty, the adoption of the Programme of Work of the Conference on Disarmament, and the unanimous views and expressed determination on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation during the recent Security Council Summit. The momentum from these developments gives us hope. It is now the time to bring about concrete outcomes.

6. Although next year will mark four decades of the entry into force of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the world today still faces risks posed by proliferation of nuclear weapons. At the 2010 Review Conference, we need to work collectively towards agreement on concrete measures for the Treaty's full implementation. The three pillars of the treaty – nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation, and peaceful uses of nuclear energy – should be addressed in a balanced manner. It is also our hope that the Conference would seriously discuss measures on how to strengthen nuclear safeguards, as well as confidence building measures and transparency as complementary elements to the objectives of the Treaty.

7. As an active proponent of the Treaty on Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (SEANWFZ), Thailand regards the establishment of regional nuclear-weapon-free zones (NWFZ) as complementary to the principles of the NPT and a practical step towards the ultimate goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world. We therefore support the convening of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish NWFZ prior to the NPT Review Conference next year.

8. Thailand commends the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency in verifying non-diversion of nuclear activities to military purposes and assuring compliance with non-proliferation obligations under the NPT. As the sole international verification body, the Agency's technical expertise is indispensable in strengthening the global nuclear non-proliferation regime. Thailand calls on all Member States to fully cooperate with the Agency. We also call on the Agency to continue to work in an independent and transparent manner.

Mr. Chairman,

9. The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) are also key pillars of international instruments to combat proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Thailand supports the universality and full implementation of the two Conventions.

10. The International Workshop on "the Biological Weapons Convention Supporting Global Health: Reducing Biological Risk by Building Capacity in Health Security", held in Oslo in June 2009, was a practical step towards reducing threats posed by biological terrorism and disasters, both natural and man-made. Similarly, the Asia-Pacific Seminar on Developments in Chemical Safety, Security and Chemical Counter-Terrorism also held last June in Canberra, which focused on scientific, technical, and policy considerations, was useful in raising awareness about the connection between chemical safety, security and terrorism. These two activities, we feel, reaffirm the relevance of the BWC and CWC in today's security architecture.

12. The threat posed by WMD acquisition by non-state actors remains a cause of major concern. Thailand supports the effective implementation of UNSC resolution 1540, which constitutes an essential element of non-proliferation and anti-terrorism. We welcome the open-ended meeting organized by the 1540 Committee as part of the comprehensive review of the implementation of the resolution, with broad participation including other international, regional and sub-regional organizations.

Mr. Chairman,

13. The proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) remains a serious threat to peace, security, stability and development in various parts of the world, as they are much more common and widespread than WMD. When linked with armed violence, transnational crimes, terrorism, though small in size, they continue to cause massive destruction.

14. Thailand supports the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. We see it as the key multilateral framework to curb the proliferation of SALW. Here, let me commend the Third Biennial Meeting of States (BMS) held last year. The Meeting was instrumental in putting the implementation of the Programme of Action back on track. We hope the Fourth BMS to be held next year will provide further impetus to efforts to combat the illicit trade and trafficking in SALW.

15. Thailand also reaffirms its support for the international efforts towards establishing an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), through which the responsible transfer of conventional weapons could be effectively assured. We welcome the progress achieved this year at the two substantive sessions of the Open-Ended Working Group on an Arms Trade Treaty. Taking into account the wide gap in the positions of Member States, Thailand believes that in the course of multilateral negotiations, the manufacturing States, exporting States and receiving States should hold discussions on ways to forge cooperation through exchanges of experiences and know-how.

16. Thailand is fully committed to the implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. While expediting our mine clearance efforts, Thailand has always attached great importance to the socio-economic consequences and to victim assistance. As Co-Chair of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration, we welcome the opportunity to highlight the issue of victim assistance during the Second Review Conference to be held in Cartagena, Colombia, at the end of this year.

Mr. Chairman,

17. As an observer to the Conference on Disarmament, Thailand recognizes the importance of the Conference as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum. As the outcomes of meetings held by the subsidiary bodies of the Conference could have an impact that reach far beyond its members, we hope that the Conference will become a more inclusive process. Meanwhile, Thailand welcomes the fact that after years of stalemate, the Conference was able to adopt the Programme of Work for 2009. It remains our hope that the Conference will be able to resume its substantive negotiations during its 2010 session.

Mr. Chairman,

18. On a final note, my delegation firmly believes that the debate, discussions and actions on resolutions are not ends in themselves. Further progress in disarmament can be only achieved through our taking joint action. My delegation pledges to work closely and constructively with fellow Member countries to achieve our shared goals of peace and prosperity.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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