

**Joint Statement**  
**Informal Group of Observer States**  
**to the Conference on Disarmament**  
**Delivered by H.E. Mr. Sihasak PHUANGKETKEOW**  
**Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand**  
**to the UN Office and other International Organizations**  
**in Geneva**  
**Plenary Session, Conference on Disarmament**  
**29 June 2010**

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Mr. President,

I am honored to deliver the statement today on behalf of the Informal Group of Observer States to the Conference on Disarmament. Since this is our first statement under your Presidency, allow me to congratulate you on the assumption of your duties and express the Group's wishes for a productive and successful Brazilian Presidency.

Mr. President,

One of the reasons for establishing the Informal Group of Observer States was to enhance the interaction among the Observer States and, most importantly, to promote our engagement with the Conference. Disarmament is an issue of concern for not only the Member States of the Conference, but also the global community. It is therefore important for the future work of the Conference to be based on the principles of inclusiveness and transparency.

The Informal Group of Observer States therefore expresses its appreciation for your initiative to convene an informal meeting

with the Observer States as soon as you assumed the Presidency. It was also the first informal meeting between the CD President and the Group of Observer States in recent years.

The meeting was informative and proved your willingness to engage with all interested parties. The high level of participation at the ambassadorial level of the Observer States in turn proved our readiness as a group to be more involved with the work of the Conference, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure.

We also wish to thank the representatives of both the Belarus and Belgian Presidencies for their willingness to brief our group. We hope that such tradition would continue with the upcoming Presidencies.

Mr. President,

We reaffirm our support as a group to your efforts for reaching consensus on an agreed, comprehensive, and balanced Programme of Work that addresses the interests of all States concerned. The Group appreciates your hard work in holding consultations during the past weeks in order to find such consensus.

We believe that the immediate commencement of work of the CD is essential in order to prove the relevance of the Conference and to fulfill its mandate as the only multilateral disarmament negotiating body. The informal consultations over all agenda items during the past weeks are a step in the positive direction, but they should by no means substitute or divert attention from formal negotiations.

Mr. President,

Given the universal impact of disarmament and any legal instrument thereof, all UN Member States should have equal opportunity to take part and share concerns in the deliberations on future discussion or negotiations.

In this connection, the Group welcomes the outcome of the 2010 NPT Review Conference which invited the UN Secretary-General to convene a high-level meeting in September of this year on security assurances and fissile materials. The Informal Group appreciates Austria's support during the NPT Review Conference for the amendments proposed by Thailand on behalf of the CD Observer States to include all UN Members States in the high-level meetings, and the amendments were later adopted by the NPT States Parties. We believe that a successful outcome of the meetings in September will be a positive step forward in both the CD and disarmament context.

Mr. President,

In closing, the Informal Group of Observer States looks forward to working with you and future Presidencies of the Conference on ways to further enhance inclusiveness in the disarmament process.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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