



**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

Mr. Jakkrit Srivali

**Deputy Permanent Representative of Thailand
to the United Nations**

before the First Committee

of the 65th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

General Debate

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Mr. Chairman,

1. First of all, I would like to congratulate you on your assumption of the chairmanship of the First Committee of the 65th United Nations General Assembly. I am confident that under your able leadership and guidance, the work of the First Committee this year will lead to a successful outcome. My congratulations also go to all members of the Bureau.

2. Thailand would like to associate itself with the statements made by the distinguished representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and by the distinguished representative of Myanmar on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). In our national capacity, Thailand would like to share additional views on the issue of disarmament and international security.

Mr. Chairman,

3. The core principle and purpose behind the establishment of the United Nations is to maintain international peace and security. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, in his address to the General Assembly, stated “the flames of war are sparked by many reasons but none are as flammable as the real or perceived security divide and power imbalance between nations as well as within them”. Today we have learned that sustainable peace can never be achieved by war, but by strengthening global cooperation. We have learned that security can never be achieved by stockpiling and usage of weapons, but by ensuring their control and elimination. Disarmament of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) significantly contributes to international peace and security both directly, by reducing the destructive outcome of potential usage, and indirectly, by reducing risks posed by their proliferation. Conventional weapons control is also a crucial step towards such goals.

4. Disarmament of conventional arms, especially small arms and light weapons (SALW), meanwhile, contributes to a more intimate form of security: human security. The armed violence made possible by SALW often accompanies abuses of human rights as well as obstruction of justice and development. Wherever armed conflict occurs, poverty and hunger are never far behind. Clearly, armed conflict presents an obstacle to the progress of the Millennium Development Goals.

Mr. Chairman,

5. The continued existence of weapons of mass destruction poses a serious threat to international peace and security. Thailand has always supported

complete disarmament and non-proliferation of all types of weapons of mass destruction. We have joined all key international treaties and conventions and have complied with all obligations and commitments under these instruments, as well as relevant UNSC resolutions.

6. This year has brought several positive developments in the area of nuclear disarmament. The Treaty between the Russian Federation and the United States on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms signed on 8 April this year was an important step forward in nuclear disarmament. We also note the conclusion of the United States 2010 Nuclear Posture Review, committing not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapons states that are party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and in compliance with their nuclear nonproliferation obligations. We hope that the efforts of all nuclear -weapon States in disarmament will continue to be further strengthened and given equal importance to nuclear non-proliferation.

7. This year also marks forty years after the NPT's first entry into force. Thailand welcomes the outcome of the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in May, which reaffirmed State Parties' commitment to strengthen the NPT's three pillars: disarmament, non-proliferation, and peaceful use. We also welcome the Communiqué and Work Plan of the Nuclear Security Summit held earlier in April in Washington D.C., as a positive step towards enhancing global nuclear security and protection against the grave threat of nuclear terrorism.

8. Thailand, as a member of ASEAN, has played an active role in the achievement of the Treaty on South East Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (SEANWFZ) or Bangkok Treaty. The resolution on the SEANWFZ, which Thailand tabled last year at this Committee on behalf of ASEAN Member States, was adopted for the first time without a negative vote. We are working towards resuming direct consultations with the five nuclear-weapon States to resolve the existing outstanding issues. In addition, the ASEAN Charter also reinforces the commitment of the ASEAN Member States to the SEANWFZ Treaty by calling for Southeast Asia to be preserved as a nuclear-weapon-free zone and free of all other weapons of mass destruction.

9. To ensure the effectiveness of the SEANWFZ as a confidence building measure in the region and a practical step towards realizing a nuclear weapon-free world, close coordination among the nuclear-weapon-free zones as well as between the nuclear-weapon-free-zones and nuclear-weapon States must be strengthened. In this regard, we welcome the outcome document of the 2nd

Conference of Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zones and Mongolia, held in New York on 30 April 2010.

10. We commend the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency as the sole international verification body, in ensuring compliance with non-proliferation obligations under the NPT. With the Agency's technical expertise and indispensable role, we believe the global nuclear non-proliferation regime could be further strengthened.

Mr. Chairman,

11. The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) are also key international instruments to combat proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Thailand supports universal adherence to and full implementation of these two Conventions, including the completion of the destruction of chemical weapons within the agreed time frame and the establishment of verification mechanisms under the BWC.

Mr. Chairman,

12. Thailand remains committed to implementing UNSC resolution 1540, with a view to addressing the threat posed by WMD acquisition by non-state actors. At the national level, Thailand recently established a Committee on Export Administration for Dual-Use Items in order to effectively implement the resolution in support of WMD non-proliferation and counter-terrorism. At the international level, we are pleased to join our partners' efforts in the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

13. The link between armed violence and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is greater than generally perceived. Easy access to small arms and light weapons (SALW) means that they continue to be used in most conflicts. Their acquisition and accumulation not only pose a serious threat to international peace and security, but also lead to "backward development" in many of the poorest regions in the world. No fragile and conflict-affected country has yet achieved any Millennium Development Goal.

14. Thailand supports the implementation of the Programme of Action (PoA) to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects as the key multilateral framework to address the illicit trade in these weapons. We commend the hard work at the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States (BMS) held in June this year, which was able to achieve substantive progress in putting the PoA back on track and strengthen

our efforts to combat trafficking in SALW. We note that adequate resources and assistance are essential to the implementation of the PoA.

Mr. Chairman,

15. The control of illicit trade in conventional arms could prevent the diversion of legal arms into the possession of illegal users and non-state actors and subsequently protect the lives of the innocent. The work of the Preparatory Committee for the UN Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), held in July in New York, is crucial for the future of the ATT. Thailand supports the work of the Preparatory Committee in laying the ground for the United Nations Conference on Arms Trade Treaty, which is in compliance with the General Assembly resolution 64/48.

Mr. Chairman,

16. As the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, concerns have been raised with regard to the progress the Conference on Disarmament (CD). Thailand views the recent High-Level Meeting on Revitalizing the Work of the Conference on Disarmament and Taking Forward Multilateral Disarmament Negotiations on 24 September as a positive sign that shows political willingness by the international community to move the CD beyond 'business as usual' in order to resume its substantive work. Thailand, as a coordinator of the Informal Group of the Observer States to the CD, strongly believes that it must engage all stakeholders. Thailand reaffirms its call for expansion of membership of the CD, first by appointing a Special Coordinator on Expansion of the Membership for 2011. We welcome the concrete actions suggested by the UN Secretary-General in the Chairman's Summary of the High-Level Meeting, including a thorough review of the issues raised during the meeting by his Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters.

Mr. Chairman,

17. Solutions to issues of international peace and security are best achieved at the multilateral level. The role of this Committee in paving the way forward and accelerating our efforts in various fora is therefore indispensable. Yet, sustainable solutions require not only political will and legal commitments, but also concrete actions. My delegation looks forward to working closely and constructively with you and other Member States to achieve our shared goal of global peace, security and prosperity, for the benefit of mankind.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
