



**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. Norachit Sinhaseni

**Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand to
the United Nations**

**before the First Committee
of the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
General Debate**

9 October 2013

United Nations, New York

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Mr. Chair,

Since I am taking the floor for the first time, allow me to express my delegation's sincere congratulations to you on your assumption as Chairman of the First Committee and to the members of the bureau. I am confident that under your able leadership this year's First Committee will be a fruitful session. You can be confident of our full cooperation and support.

At the outset, my delegation associates itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and also to the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Myanmar on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Mr. Chair,

Thailand is committed to its shared responsibility for the maintenance and development of international peace and security and addressing the challenges to achieving these goals. Recent events leave us with little doubt that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction hinders the progress for international peace and security. The affects are felt at all levels: national, regional and international. While other events have brought to fore a solemn reminder that conventional arms falling into the wrong hands continue to fuel conflicts around the world and can also be the weapon of choice of transnational crimes and terrorism. Disarmament is vital if we are to be successful in securing peace and security in our world.

Mr. Chair,

In our view, the goal of the total disarmament of weapons of mass destruction must be the core of our efforts. On our part, Thailand has joined and complied with all key international treaties and conventions as well as UNSC resolutions on disarmament.

Thailand has also taken concrete steps to enhance our capability by joining the Proliferation Security Initiative last year. This year Thailand hosted the Thai-US workshop on PSI and the Second ASEAN Regional Forum: Confidence Building Measure Seminar on Implementation of UNSCR 1540 to advance understanding and implementation in both issues. In January 2014, Thailand will host the Nuclear Security Summit Sherpa meeting in preparations for the 2014 Nuclear Security Summit to be held in the Hague.

My delegation notes with satisfaction the High-level Meeting on Nuclear Disarmament held on 26 September 2013, which marked the first time the General Assembly has met on this important topic. We hope that this will mark the beginning of the process for serious and inclusive negotiations on a treaty banning the production of fissile materials and a Nuclear Weapons Convention.

Thailand urges all States Parties to the NPT to carry out their obligations under the Treaty in a transparent, verifiable and irreversible manner. We also call for the strengthening of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime through the establishment of legally binding security assurances.

Mr. Chair,

The Conference on Disarmament (CD) is the only formal multilateral disarmament negotiating body, but unfortunately it still struggles to make progress. We welcome and support the efforts of the Open Ended Working Group to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations. As an active member and the first coordinator of the Informal Group of the Observer States to the CD, Thailand hopes that the CD will be able to move forward in a transparent and inclusive manner.

Mr. Chair,

Thailand believes that regional nuclear-weapon-free zones can contribute positively to global nuclear non-proliferation. As an active proponent of the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon - Free Zone (SEANWFZ), Thailand hopes the P5 will consider co-sponsoring the resolution of SEANWFZ this year. We also reiterate our call for Nuclear-Weapon-States to accede to the Protocol of the Bangkok Treaty at the earliest opportunity.

We note with regret that the conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction has not been held. We urge all parties concerned to continue to engage seriously in order that the conference could be convened as soon as possible.

Mr. Chair,

We see nuclear safety as an equally important pillar of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. Thailand continues to recognize and support the International Atomic Energy Agency as the only international verification body and calls for the cooperation from all its Member States. As a member of the Board of Governors, Thailand is working closely with the members of the international community to enhance nuclear security, nuclear safety and safeguards.

In our ASEAN region, last month, the ASEAN Network of Nuclear Regulatory Bodies or Relevant Authorities (ASEANTOM) met for the first time and was able to finalise its terms of reference. The first ASEANTOM meeting also discussed the Network's future action plan of activities. We are confident that this Network will further contribute to the South East Asia free from nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chair,

Thailand reiterates our call for the complete destruction of weapons of mass destruction. We support the universal adherence to and strict implementation of both Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention. We urge states that are not yet party to the Conventions to accede to them as soon as possible.

Thailand welcomes the results of the Third Special Session of the Conference of State Parties to the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in April 2013. Recent events, particularly in Syria, reinforce our conviction on the importance of the universality of the CWC. We join the call for the destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles. We fully support the role of the UN and

the OPCW to account for and destroy such weapons. In this regard, we welcome the accession of Syria to the CWC as well as the adoption of the OPCW Executive Council decision.

Mr. Chair,

My delegation welcomes the successful negotiations of the Arms Trade Treaty. Thailand fully supports the ATT and looks forward to its entry into force. For Thailand, we hope to be able to conclude our internal process and be able to sign the treaty in the near future.

Thailand has long borne the brunt of the effects of landmines. Experiencing first-hand the serious impact posed by remnants of this weapon. Humanitarian concerns have always been at the forefront of Thailand's foreign policy. Being among the first countries to sign the Mine Ban Convention, Thailand will continue to contribute constructively to implementing the Convention. In our current capacity as Co-chair of the Standing Committee on Resources, Cooperation and Assistance, in June this year Thailand hosted the "Bangkok Symposium on Enhancing Cooperation and Assistance: Building Synergy towards Effective Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation" with the valuable support of the Australian Government. The successful three-day event underscores the vital need for international cooperation and assistance in removing the scourge of landmines.

Finally, Mr. Chair, as the international community strives for the development and maintenance of international peace and security, disarmament is crucial. Though progress in multilateral negotiations can be slow and at times disheartening, too much is at stake for us not to seize this opportunity to act responsibly. Thailand stands ready to work with all Members States towards disarmament as our contribution to building a lasting peace.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.