



**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

Ms. Karavikar Svetasreni

Delegate of Thailand to the United Nations

before the First Committee

of the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

Thematic Debate “Conventional Weapons”

New York, 29 October 2013

Please check against delivery



Building Bridges for Partnership
THAILAND

ASEAN Candidate for the UN Security Council 2017 – 2018

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Thailand aligns itself with the statement to be delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chair,

This year, the accumulated efforts of nations accomplished a major breakthrough in the multilateral negotiations on disarmament, particularly in the field of conventional weapons. Thailand welcomes the General Assembly's adoption of The Arms Trade Treaty on 2 April 2013. This landmark agreement to regulate the trade and transfer of conventional weapons is an overdue recognition of the critical attention the world should pay to the trade in conventional arms. Thailand fully supports the ATT and looks forward to its entry into force as the first legally binding instrument to address this issue. On our part, we will continue to proceed with our internal processes to sign the treaty at the earliest opportunity.

We welcome a resolution on the Arms Trade Treaty proposed at this First Committee by ATT co-authors which will provide assistance to requesting States intending to become a party to the ATT.

Mr. Chair,

The illicit trade, proliferation, and trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) remain a threat to the maintenance of international peace and security, stability and development. It is inextricably linked with transnational crimes, drug trafficking, terrorism, human rights violation and has devastating humanitarian and social-economic consequences. Internationally, it continues to disproportionately affect vulnerable groups and developing countries. We take note with appreciation a number of international efforts made in tackling this issue over the past year. Those include the inclusion of the small arms and light weapons in the scope of the ATT and the adoption of the UN Security Council Resolution 2117 which is the first ever UNSC resolution to address the question of small arms and light weapons.

The Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (UNPoA) and the International Tracing Instrument (ITI) provide countries with the guideline and technical instrument to aid domestic controls. However, full implementation still remains a challenge. The need for close cooperation and shared responsibility between importing and exporting countries, especially in marking and tracing is vital due to the international nature of the illicit trade of weapons. It is also essential that adequate resources and assistance are provided to each country in its capacity-building.

In this regard, Thailand would like to again recognize the work of United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD). Specifically, we would like to express our appreciation to the Centre in supporting the

Specifically, we would like to express our appreciation to the Centre in supporting the workshop entitled “Building Capacity and Overcoming Language Barriers in SALW Control” held on 11 – 13 December 2012 in Thailand, with the support of the German Government.

Mr. Chair,

Thailand fully supports the humanitarian principles that lie at the core of the international efforts to tackle the inhumane weapons, such as landmines and cluster munitions. As a state party to the Mine Ban Convention, we remain committed to fulfilling our obligations especially in mine clearance, as well as providing assistance to victims affected by landmines. We are determined to achieve further progress on mine clearance by implementing the land release method.

Thailand stands ready to play a role in the international cooperation in the field of land mines. In June this year, in our capacity as Co-Chair of the Standing Committee on Resources, Cooperation and Assistance, Thailand hosted the “Bangkok Symposium on Enhancing Cooperation and Assistance: Building Synergy towards Effective Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation”. In this regard, we would like to acknowledge the integral roles of the Implementation Support Unit of the Mine Ban Convention and the Australian Government that made this event a success.

Thailand notes that the finalized Terms of Reference of the ASEAN Mine Action Center (ARMAC) has been adopted. This regional center will provide ASEAN countries with a network of cooperation among us and with related international parties to support each country’s efforts in addressing humanitarian problems from Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) as appropriate.

Thailand looks forward to the successful outcome of the 13th Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Convention to be held in Geneva, Switzerland later this year. Thailand will actively participate in the Third Review Conference of the Mine Ban Treaty in Maputo, Mozambique next year.

Mr. Chair,

On a final note, my delegation wishes to reiterate that Thailand welcomes progress made in the area of conventional weapons and disarmament negotiations. We believe that the international community should continue to carry on this momentum and give well-deserved attention to this important issue. Thailand remains committed to the full realization of our obligations on conventional weapons.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.