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

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Statement

by

**His Excellency Mr. Chayapan Bamrungphong
Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative
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**before the First Committee of the 70th Session
of the United Nations General Assembly
General Debate**

New York, 12 October 2015



Building Bridges for Partnership

THAILAND

ASEAN Candidate for the UN Security Council 2017 – 2018

Mr. Chair,

1. The Thai Delegation joins in congratulating you on your election as Chair of the Committee, and assures you of our support throughout this session.
2. Thailand aligns itself with the statement on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) made by the distinguished Vice-Minister of Indonesia, and also with that made by the distinguished Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the United Nations on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Mr. Chair,

3. Celebrating the 70th anniversary of the United Nations, we can look to many achievements towards international peace and security. But we are reminded that there is more work to be done in the coming decades. More work needs to be done towards a safer and more secure world that is conducive to development and prosperity, not least under the Sustainable Development Goals that were adopted by our leaders last month. It is clear that action and participation by *all* in the realm of disarmament and non-proliferation is necessary for the realization of those goals.
4. Considering our common aspiration for a world free of nuclear weapons, the disappointing result of the NPT Review Conference earlier this year is a palpable setback, especially for the prospects of a WMD-Free Zone in the Middle East. The only appropriate response is to redouble our efforts on this front. Thailand is encouraged, nonetheless, by recent positive developments, namely the steadily growing support for the Humanitarian Initiative on the consequences of nuclear weapons and the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPoA), successfully reached between the E3+3 and Iran in July.

Mr. Chair,

5. In support of the Humanitarian Initiative, in March this year, Thailand co-hosted in Bangkok a Regional Roundtable on the Humanitarian Impacts of Nuclear Weapons and Prospects of a Ban Treaty on the eve of the NPT Review Conference. We are delighted by the increasing number of States joining the humanitarian pledge, and the expanding discourses on this topic generated by more stakeholders across a wider range of sectors, especially on how a legally-binding international instrument on prohibition of nuclear weapons could and should be realised.

6. We also commend in particular the good work of civil society in this regard and look forward to continuing discussions in a concrete manner on how to take this forward. The time is now and only a serious discussion will lead us towards creating the meaningful partnership necessary to work towards a nuclear weapons-free world. We hope to do our part in bridging the gaps in perspectives.

Mr. Chair,

7. Thailand is the depository state of the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) or Bangkok Treaty. Together with ASEAN, Thailand will continue our efforts to encourage signing and ratification by the nuclear weapon States of the Protocol to the Treaty, which once in force will significantly strengthen SEANWFZ as a key security instrument for the region. We commend all the existing achievements towards nuclear weapon-free-zones, and look forward to progress in other regions, including the Middle East.
8. Thailand also recognizes the role of regional, sub-regional and bilateral mechanisms in facilitating discussions on peace and security, particularly the ASEAN Regional Forum, which has played a crucial part in generating vital dialogue within the Asia-Pacific Region. Through these avenues, we trust that the aspirations on disarmament and non-proliferation can be further promoted.

Mr. Chair,

9. National implementation of existing non-proliferation obligations remain a priority. Thailand has constantly developed our capacity to implement the United Nations Security Council resolution 1540, particularly through enhancing interagency coordination mechanisms within the Thai Government service, improving laws and regulations, and exploring avenues for outreach.
10. Thailand maintains active interest and involvement in non-proliferation and nuclear security initiatives, including the Proliferation Security Initiative and Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, and the Nuclear Security Summit. Regarding this latter initiative, Thailand hosted another Sherpa meeting in February this year, leading up to the 2016 Nuclear Security Summit. We hope that these contributions will help consolidate international action and partnership on non-proliferation and nuclear security even further.

Mr. Chair,

11. At the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna only weeks ago, Thailand reemphasised our cooperation with the Agency and our commitments to its safeguards regimes. We commend the role of the Agency and recognise its upcoming responsibility in the implementation of the landmark JCPoA. We will also further our commitments under the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, with the impending enactment of our new nuclear energy legislation.

Mr. Chair,

12. Universalization and due implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention are vital to a WMD-free world. Recent highlights of Thailand's ongoing efforts in this area include the passing of a new law, the *Pathogen and Animal Toxins Act*, and capacity-building activities cohosted with the Organisation for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in Thailand.

Mr. Chair,

13. Thailand agrees with the notion that small arms and light weapons are the 'real' weapons of mass destruction as SALWs have caused innumerable human suffering, more than any other weapon. We further note the connection between the illicit trade, trafficking and unauthorized use of conventional weapons, and their negative implications for development. We also note with concern the social and gender dimension of the issue, as women and children are disproportionately affected by such weapons.
14. Thailand is committed to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), to which we are now a signatory, and are in the process of ratification. We believe the successful conclusion of the First Conference of States Parties of the ATT held in Cancún in August this year, in which we participated, will be solid ground for the full and effective implementation of the Treaty.

Mr. Chair,

15. We also continue to actively implement our obligations under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. In June this year, we hosted the Bangkok Symposium on Landmine Victim Assistance with the aim to address the humanitarian concern of the Convention and to promote the full participation of mine victims in society on an equal basis.

16. We also remain engaged in other frameworks, including the Convention on Cluster Munitions. We support its objectives and uphold comparable principles and complementary practices according to international standards, with a view to acceding to the Convention once we are ready to fulfill its obligations.

Mr. Chair,

17. Thailand commends the ongoing work of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific. We reiterate our full support to the Centre, especially during this time of extra challenges following the Centre's temporary relocation to Bangkok after the devastating earthquakes in Nepal.
18. We also reiterate our call for a more active, inclusive and dynamic Conference on Disarmament, considering that much important work still awaits the Conference's consideration.

Mr. Chair,

19. To conclude, let's underline that efforts for peace and security concern all. In these efforts, we should hear and involve as many as we can, and reach out as widely as possible. As we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the United Nations this year, we hold hopes that the next 70 years will be guided by stronger commitments, as well as fresh ideas and actions from a broader range of partnership and perspectives. Thailand will do our part in contributing positive elements to the process.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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