



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

351 EAST 52ND STREET · NEW YORK, NY10022
TEL (212) 754-2230 • FAX (212) 688-3029

Statement

by

Ms. Sirithon Wairatpanij

Counsellor

**before the First Committee of the 70th Session
of the United Nations General Assembly
Thematic Discussion on Nuclear Weapons**

New York, 20 October 2015



Building Bridges for Partnership

THAILAND

ASEAN Candidate for the UN Security Council 2017 – 2018

Mr. Chair,

1. Thailand aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement by the distinguished representative of the Republic of Indonesia.

Mr. Chair,

2. Like many views expressed earlier, Thailand shares the common aspiration and objective of a world free of nuclear weapons. Despite the mix of disappointment and optimism stemming from recent events, we are hopeful that this session will give the agenda a push forward.
3. Thailand is pleased to join over one-hundred states to endorse the humanitarian ‘pledge’. We are enthusiastic about the paradigm and normative shifts occurring, as well as the increasing momentum, support and involvement of more interested stakeholders in the Humanitarian Initiative on the consequences of nuclear weapons. In addition to the Regional Roundtable on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons that we cohosted in Bangkok in March, we are keen to join forces for future action to advance this Initiative.

Mr. Chair,

4. Almost twenty years from the date of the ICJ Advisory Opinion on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*, the time is ripe to address gaps in the existing international legal regime on nuclear weapons. Thailand calls for discussions to consider the options seriously, and looks forward to contributing support and available legal and technical expertise to this defining step for disarmament. The humanitarian conferences have revisited and reshaped our collective thinking not only on the disastrous impacts of nuclear weapons but more importantly served as a stark reminder that those impacts fall on NWS and NNWS alike. The conversation needs to be expanded and, in this current global state of persisting insecurities, deserves due and urgent attention.

Mr. Chair,

5. Despite the disappointing result of the Review Conference, Thailand reaffirms our commitment to the NPT, and will continue to enhance our relevant implementation. Nuclear safety and security, in accordance with IAEA

safeguards, is an important priority for Thailand. Our amended Draft *Nuclear Energy Act* is soon to be considered by the legislature. This will better align Thailand's technical, institutional and educational commitments with international obligations, and allow for benefiting more fully from the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology pursuant to the NPT.

6. As this draft legislation also covers nuclear-testing, Thailand will be closer to being able to ratify the CTBT, once it becomes law. We support the universalisation of the CTBT.
7. In addition, we continue to work towards signing and ratifying the International Convention Against Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT), and are keen to see developments on the Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty.
8. Thailand reaffirms our cooperation with the IAEA whose work is highly commendable. With the recent conclusion of JCPoA, we call on all sides to cooperate fully with the Agency in order to ensure its effective implementation.

Mr. Chair,

9. Thailand would like to recognise regional initiatives regarding nuclear security, safety and safeguards, with particular note of the ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy, or ASEANTOM. We are currently exploring ways to formalise the relations between ASEANTOM and IAEA. Beyond technical coordination, we trust that ASEANTOM will also play a role in helping to raise awareness on disarmament and non-proliferation issues, to bridge national, regional and global efforts.

Mr. Chair,

10. The Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) is ASEAN's regional commitment to nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. The Bangkok Treaty establishes an ambitious and distinctive NWFZ, *expressly* extending its coverage to the Exclusive Economic Zones and continental shelves, and seeking to commit Nuclear Weapon States not to use nuclear weapons against the States Parties. We hope that Nuclear Weapon States will sign and ratify the Protocol to the Treaty to ensure vital nuclear strategic balance and a functional NWFZ for a region active in global interconnectivity.

Mr. Chair,

11. Thailand's efforts on implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540 have continued, especially through the interagency sub-committee on WMD and the interagency sub-committee on nonproliferation coordination, which are now active in establishing standard operating procedures for WMD-related situations and effective interdiction. As for laws and regulations, recent amendments to the *Customs Act* have clarified, *inter alia*, transit, transshipment, search and inspection provisions, whilst a draft new *Customs Act* is being considered. Additionally, Thailand's Dual-Use Items regime has been revitalised through the re-appointment of a ministerial-level committee and promulgation of more comprehensive regulations.
12. Thailand also acknowledges multilateral non-proliferation and security initiatives, the Proliferation Security Initiative, Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and Nuclear Security Summit, amongst others. They enrich our discussions, and offer broader methods and tools for action.

Mr. Chair,

13. We are under no illusion that the road ahead, even one that merely begins a substantive conversation in concrete terms, will be easy. But we refuse to be deterred for the simple fact that we believe in the power of working towards a common cause, no matter how far apart the perspectives may seem. So we welcome all positive new inputs into disarmament and non-proliferation efforts. We are keen, especially, to explore in more concrete terms the Humanitarian Initiative and prospects for a ban on nuclear weapons, and appreciate that a more diverse and extensive conversation on realising a nuclear weapons-free world is in process. We pledge our active engagement on the issues and hope to play a constructive, bridging role in this process.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.
