



**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

Mr. Vorapong Vadhanasindhu

Third Secretary

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

New York, 26 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 by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chair,

2. Thailand reiterates our concern over the notion that Small Arms and Light Weapons are the ‘real weapons of mass destruction’. It is clear that these are still the weapons that kill and maim alarming numbers of civilians worldwide. They remain problematic not only for peace and security, but also for development prospects, hindering economic and social progress, and opportunities for a better quality of life, particularly for those in greatest need.
3. Thailand is committed to working, especially as a bridge-builder, towards coherent action across all levels, from local to global, and for inclusive approaches by government, civil society and others, to address this global threat.

Mr. Chair,

4. The entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) in December last year exemplifies international success in this arena, and we are optimistic of its contribution to effective arms control and mitigating the consequences of illicit arms trade.
5. Having signed the ATT in November 2014, Thailand supports fully the object and purpose of the Treaty, and is working on the necessary processes for ratification. Meanwhile, we have been participating in relevant conferences under the Treaty’s framework, and this will continue. We are pleased to see swift developments made at the 1st Conference of States Parties in Cancún in August this year. We also congratulate Switzerland on being chosen as the seat of the ATT Secretariat, and commend Austria and Trinidad and Tobago for their generosity and leadership.
6. Thailand looks forward to engaging more deeply under the ATT framework, and stresses that transparency, and involvement by as many as possible across all regions, will be key to its success. We also reaffirm our commitment towards the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (UN PoA), being of the view that the ATT and the UN PoA should complement and strengthen each other, without duplicating one another.

Mr. Chair,

7. As a State Party to the Mine Ban Convention, Thailand is committed to our mine clearance obligations. Despite some unforeseen difficulties, we are doing our utmost to reduce mine-affected areas within our extended deadline. In this regard, we commend, in particular, the Governments of Japan, Norway, and the United States for their continuing support to our ongoing efforts.
8. Thailand accords high priority to pushing forward the victim assistance agenda. During our membership of the Committee on Victim Assistance this year, we hosted the Bangkok Symposium on Landmine Victim Assistance, under the theme ‘Enhancing a Comprehensive and Sustainable Mine Action’. The Symposium was aimed at realising the victim assistance section of the Maputo Action Plan. Ways forward for victim assistance through empowerment and rights-based approaches, based on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, were discussed, while stressing that international cooperation and assistance remains central, including through South-South partnership.

Mr. Chair,

9. Thailand notes the striking gender and age element in the conventional weapons agenda, where the number of women and children who fall victim are overwhelmingly disproportionate. We urge all victim assistance efforts to take this into account, and include victims’ voices and perspectives into decision-making processes where relevant. Thailand hopes to further explore holistic and integrated approaches to this important subject matter, and looks forward to sharing experiences and best practices with our friends and partners.

Mr. Chair,

10. We remain engaged in the framework of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). Thailand is pleased to note the successful 1st Review Conference last month, as well as the adoption of the Dubrovnik Action Plan, marking the fifth anniversary since the Convention entered into force.
11. Thailand recognises and supports the humanitarian principles, as well as the object and purpose of the CCM. We are in the process of verifying scope and meaning under the CCM, with a view to possible accession in the future. In the meantime, and as stated earlier, our overall efforts on mine clearance and victim assistance will continue to be strengthened.

Mr. Chair,

12.To conclude, Thailand stands ready to share and cooperate with partners and friends, endeavouring to make any contribution we can to a mine-free and safer world.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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