



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

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**Statement**

by

**His Excellency Mr. Chayapan Bamrungphong**

**Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative,**

**Chargé d' Affaires a.i.**

**of the Kingdom of Thailand to the United Nations**

**at the General Debate of the 2015 Review Conference**

**of the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

**New York, 30 April 2015**



*Building Bridges for Partnership*  
**THAILAND**

*ASEAN Candidate for the UN Security Council 2017 – 2018*

**Madam President,**

At the outset, allow me the honour to congratulate you on your election as President of the 2015 Review Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). My sincere congratulations also go to the other esteemed members of the Bureau. My delegation lends its full cooperation and support to you, Madam President, in steering the important work we have before us in the days and weeks ahead.

Thailand associates itself with the statement delivered by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), as well as the statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

**Madam President,**

Allow me to share Thailand's views on a few points of particular importance for my delegation:

***1. Nuclear Disarmament***

A world free of nuclear weapons is not a pipe dream. It is a clear and achievable goal. Some view current global insecurities facing the international community as proof that progress on this front will continue to elude us. We believe the exact opposite. The current challenges we face underline that *now*, more than ever, we need to find the inspiration to overcome our differences. We need to secure a safer world for generations to come.

Thailand believes that the NPT remains the cornerstone of international efforts on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. We also view that, as States Parties to the NPT, we have a *legal* responsibility to fulfill our obligations under Article VI on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

Forty-five years have passed since the NPT's entry into force. These obligations remains largely unfulfilled. For Thailand, no one is to blame but *everyone is responsible*. Nuclear weapon states and non-nuclear weapon states alike must have the courage to be creative, flexible and to move the mountain forward in a constructive manner.

This year marks 70 years since the first nuclear weapons devastated Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Coupled with the three Humanitarian Conferences in Oslo, Nayarit and Vienna, there is even more reason and momentum to take clear steps in the right direction in order to make progress *now*.

For Thailand, we saw a window of opportunity to contribute what we could to this momentum. We saw a need to support further *focused* discussion on the issue. For us, living up to our obligations under Article VI meant making it possible to explore how to take the discussion on concrete proposals on a legal instrument forward. How do we address the legal deficit on the issue of nuclear weapons? How do we forge ahead with further developments in international law? Last month, we co-hosted with the International Law and Policy Institute of Norway, a Regional Roundtable on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons and the Prospects for a Ban Treaty in Bangkok. It was the third such roundtable in our region. We hope that the recommendations coming out of that discussion can be helpful in formulating further concrete actions aimed at nuclear disarmament. We hope that it would contribute, along with the many other laudable initiatives, to jump-starting a diplomatic process on the issue.

Thailand also attaches importance to promoting public awareness on the issue, especially among the younger generation. Last year, the Foreign Ministry held a reception in Bangkok to commemorate the first ever International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, at which youth participated in the public speaking contest and shared their views on “*A World Free of Nuclear Weapons*”. We are determined to continue to engage the public on this issue, as we view this is crucial to advance the goals of the Treaty in support of achieving a world free of nuclear weapons.

## ***2. Nuclear Weapons Free Zones (NWFZs)***

Thailand is the depository state of the Bangkok Treaty that established the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (SEANWFZ). We view all zones to be important confidence building measures which have a unique role to play, not only in efforts on disarmament but also in efforts on non-proliferation. Therefore, Thailand strongly supports the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in all other regions. We continue to be disappointed by the failure to convene the Conference to discuss the establishment of such a zone in the Middle East prior to this Review Conference. Thailand calls upon all relevant parties to continue to work together constructively, and in good faith, in order to achieve tangible progress on this matter.

### ***3. Non-Proliferation***

Thailand is determined to continue to enhance its implementation of the relevant international frameworks aimed at countering the proliferation of nuclear weapons and nuclear explosive devices, as stipulated in Article I and II of the Treaty. Thailand reaffirms its commitment to fulfill the obligations set forth in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 1540. In addition, Thailand also participates actively in the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, the Proliferation Security Initiative, and the Nuclear Security Summit, for which we hosted two Sherpa meetings to prepare for the 2014 and 2016 NSS. At the NSS in the Hague last year, the Special Envoy of the Thai Prime Minister underlined the importance of capacity building, the critical role of the IAEA in this regard, as well as the need to raise awareness and engage all stakeholders in strengthening nuclear security and non-proliferation efforts. Thailand encourages more cooperation among NPT States Parties to enhance capacity in this area. This can be done by exchanging of best practices, sharing lessons learned, and extending assistance to requesting countries.

### ***4. Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy***

Thailand believes that it is in the interest of all States Parties to protect the inalienable right to develop and use nuclear energy in a safe, secure and peaceful manner, as stipulated in Article IV of the Treaty. For Thailand, we value and benefit from IAEA's Technical Cooperation Programme, and will continue to cooperate closely with the IAEA to promote and utilise nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

Thailand, as a member of ASEAN, affirms our serious commitment to ensure that high standards of safeguards and safety measures are adhered to in the peaceful use of nuclear energy. The ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy (ASEANTOM) was established in 2013 to facilitate the sharing of best practices, exchange of views and information on safety, security, and safeguards in the use of nuclear energy for the benefit of the people in our region. We hosted the first and second formal meetings of the ASEANTOM and look forward to expanding cooperation between ASEANTOM, the IAEA and other similar bodies.

**Madam President,**

In closing, I wish to reaffirm my delegation's commitment to working with all delegations in order to reach a comprehensive and balanced outcome document. Thailand will approach the important work that lies ahead of us with a spirit of inspiration, ambition, flexibility, understanding and a real appreciation of our shared responsibility for our common human heritage and future. Whether within the context of the NPT Review Conference, the First Committee of the UNGA, the Disarmament Commission, the Security Council for which we are running for a non-permanent seat for the term 2017-2018, we hope to do our part in finding the common space for different views to reconcile and move forward.

Thank you, Madam President.

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