Statement

by

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before the First Committee
of the 66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

Thematic Debate
“Nuclear Weapons”

13 - 14 October 2011

United Nations, New York

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Mr. Chairman.

1. Thailand shares a common vision of a world free of nuclear weapons. It has always been our firm belief that it is in the best interest of both nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States to join hands and work together towards a common goal: the complete elimination of all weapons of mass destruction.

2. It is evident that the development and possession of nuclear weapons have led to insecurity and instability. The world's nations have long expressed their collective desire to abolish the weapons. The obstacles are daunting but Thailand believes that, if we are to achieve this end, the symbolic value of nuclear weapons possession must be minimized and eventually nullified. Nuclear weapons should be regarded more as a source of existential danger to humanity rather than as a sign of great power status.

Mr. Chairman,

3. Thailand strongly calls for all Member States, particularly Nuclear-Weapon States and States in possession of the weapons, to fulfill their political, legal and moral responsibility in order to rid the world of nuclear weapons.

4. Thailand wishes to further emphasize that global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation efforts must be governed by the principles of "transparency, verifiability and irreversibility." We are encouraged by the entry into force of the New START as agreed upon by the US and Russia. We also call for the full and strict implementation of the outcome of the 2010 NPT Review Conference and sincerely urge all relevant States to ensure the success of the 2012 Conference on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other types of WMD in the Middle East.

5. In addition, the use of, or threat to use, nuclear weapons on Non-Nuclear-Weapon States must not be allowed. Negative security assurances are crucial for the reduction of incentives for nuclear proliferation. Thailand is of the firm belief that a universal and legally binding agreement on negative security assurances must be actively pursued.

6. The vision of a world free of nuclear weapons will never be realized if nuclear testing continues. Such testing must be prohibited because it would undermine regional and global security. Thailand welcomes the 7th Article XIV Conference and supports the early entry into force of the CTBT. We are also
working to complete our internal process required for the ratification of the CBT.

7. Also recognized internationally is the IAEA’s central role in the areas of safeguards, verification and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Thailand stands ready to strengthen its cooperation with the IAEA and continue to support the IAEA to successfully carry out its mandate. Thailand considers the Additional Protocol to the Nuclear Safeguards Agreement as a key confidence-building measure and an effective international verification system. We are working diligently to finish our internal process in order to accede to the Additional Protocol at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. Chairman,

8. The international community cannot achieve nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation goals if fissile materials are not effectively controlled. In this regard, Thailand underscores the necessity for the Conference on Disarmament to resume its substantive work as soon as possible and begin the negotiations on a treaty prohibiting the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons or other explosive devices, at the earliest opportunity, in an effective and inclusive manner.

Mr. Chairman,

9. Nuclear security and safety are among the top priorities on the global agenda. Nuclear terrorism is a compelling reason for all Member States to cooperate and coordinate their efforts to prevent such a cataclysm. Thailand is committed to implementing UNSC resolution 1540, with a view to addressing the threat posed by WMD acquisition by non-state actors. We have actively joined international efforts to address this issue through the frameworks of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and the Nuclear Security Summit.

10. As far as nuclear safety is concerned, the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant has raised concerns for the international community on the issue of nuclear safety. It is essential to strengthen the Global Nuclear Safety Regime in order to restore public confidence on the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Thailand welcomes the UN Secretary General’s convening of the High-Level Meeting on Nuclear Safety and Security on 22 September 2011. We are committed to doing our part to ensure nuclear safety and security, and
stand ready to support the work of the IAEA in this regard, including the implementation of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety.

Mr. Chairman,

11. Regional efforts are indispensable in supporting global efforts on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The Treaty on the South East Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (SEANWFZ) or the Bangkok Treaty has played a significant role in our region. Thailand and our fellow ASEAN members have continued close consultations with Nuclear-Weapon-States to resolve the outstanding issues between the two sides. ASEAN hopes that Nuclear-Weapon States will be able to accede to the Protocol to the Treaty soon. Additionally, ASEAN is once again tabling the biennial draft resolution on SEANWFZ for the consideration of the First Committee during this Session. We ask for support from the international community and hope that the draft resolution will enjoy consensus and be adopted without a vote.

12. As nuclear safety, security and safeguards are all important for creating trust and confidence within the region, Thailand has proposed to our ASEAN colleagues the idea of establishing an informal network among nuclear regulatory bodies or relevant authorities in the region to share information and best practices, as well as to enhance regulatory capacity to ensure safe, secure and peaceful uses of nuclear energy in the region. Our ASEAN colleagues’ responses were very positive. Thailand will continue to discuss this issue with them in order to explore the possibility and options to seriously pursue this initiative.

Mr. Chairman,

13. In closing, Thailand is convinced that multilateral agreements and cooperation are crucial in achieving the common global goals of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Thailand stands ready to cooperate with all Member States and will continue to play a responsible role and make constructive contributions in this regard.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.