



**OPCW**

**Conference of the States Parties**

Fifteenth Session  
29 November – 3 December 2010

C-15/NAT.6  
30 November 2010  
ENGLISH only

**THAILAND**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. MR VIRACHAI PLASAI, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND TO THE ORGANISATION FOR THE  
PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS AT THE  
FIFTEENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairperson,  
Mr Director-General,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

1. First of all, let me join other delegations in congratulating you, Ambassador Julio Roberto Palomo Silva, as the Chairperson of this year's session of the Conference of the States Parties. I am confident that under your able leadership, this session will proceed smoothly and lead to successful outcomes. Allow me also to extend to the outgoing Chairperson, His Excellency Ambassador Vaidotas Verba, my delegation's appreciation for his wise leadership and the good works achieved during the Fourteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties.
2. I also wish to welcome His Excellency Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü, Director-General of the OPCW, for the first time at the Conference of the States Parties and congratulate him for his opening statement which is very comprehensive and encompasses all the important aspects of the Chemical Weapons Convention. My delegation would like to reaffirm our full support for his mission as Director-General of the OPCW. We are confident that through his tireless efforts to carry forward the work of the OPCW, full and effective implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention will be ensured.

Mr Chairperson,

3. The continued existence of weapons of mass destruction poses a grave threat to humanity and international peace and security. The Kingdom of Thailand reiterates its unequivocal position on complete disarmament of all types of weapons of mass destruction. We are firmly committed to the goals of the Chemical Weapons Convention and have rendered our full support to the work of the OPCW and the effective and non-discriminatory implementation of the Convention.



4. The Kingdom of Thailand on its part has adopted various necessary measures to fully implement its obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention. Our National Authority has also been fully cooperating with the OPCW with regard to our annual declaration of past and anticipated activities as well as inspections of schedule chemical production facilities sites and other chemical production facilities sites.
5. To further enhance our cooperation with the OPCW, I am pleased to confirm that the Royal Thai Government will co-organise, together with the Technical Secretariat, the next OPCW challenge inspection field exercise in Thailand between 31 October and 4 November 2011. This will be the first such exercise to take place in Asia.
6. The exercise will be held in an industrial operating plant site which was selected by the Thai authorities to meet the Technical Secretariat's testing requirements. We are confident that facilities at the chosen site will provide a constructive environment for a fruitful exercise. The Thai National Authority has already hosted two preparatory meetings with the Technical Secretariat's planning team in June and September this year. During those meetings, two visits to the exercise plant site were conducted; an outline scenario was developed; a first coaching session was conducted on the Convention provisions on challenge inspection and was attended by a number of representatives of various Thai agencies that will be involved in the exercise. Further preparatory meetings will be held in 2011; the Thai Authorities and the Technical Secretariat's planning team will continue to work closely together in the coming months, including, among others, on the conclusion of a formal agreement which will govern the conduct of the exercise.

Mr Chairperson,

7. The Kingdom of Thailand supports the universality of the Convention, which is reputed to be a highly credible and effective disarmament instrument aimed at the total elimination of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction. The verification system provided for under the Convention is considered the most comprehensive to have been formulated for a multilateral agreement in the field of disarmament. We therefore urge the remaining States outside the Convention to ratify or accede to it without further delay. Only with universal adherence to and implementation of the Convention will we be able to effectively rid the world of the potential harms of chemical weapons.
8. The Kingdom of Thailand welcomes the dedication and commitment demonstrated by possessor States Parties to the achievement of the total destruction of their chemical weapons stockpiles. We also welcome the progress made so far. With more than approximately 37% of declared chemical weapons to be destroyed by the extended deadline of April 2012, we reiterate the importance of the completion of the destruction of chemical weapons within the agreed timeframe. Failure to do so would affect the credibility, integrity, and effectiveness of the Convention. We therefore urge the remaining possessor States Parties to fulfil their obligations in a timely manner.

Mr Chairperson,

9. International cooperation is another vital component of the Convention. The Kingdom of Thailand commends the OPCW's continued hard work in organising capacity-building activities under its international cooperation programmes to promote peaceful application of chemicals and legitimate activities of the chemical industry. These activities are of great importance for many countries, especially those with a developing economy. International cooperation in the field of chemical activities including the exchange of chemicals, equipment, and scientific and technical information should also be promoted in accordance with Article XI on economic and technological developments.
10. In this regard, the Kingdom of Thailand reiterates its complete support for the ongoing informal consultations on the full implementation of Article XI. With the expertise of the Technical Secretariat, my delegation believes that exchange of views and experience among States Parties and relevant stakeholders can be instrumental in the development of concrete and appropriate measures towards this end, as reflected by the fruitful discussion we had during the recent workshop on the implementation of Article XI held last week, in The Hague. We look forward to cooperating closely with other States Parties and the OPCW to ensure the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI.
11. To further enhance the object and purpose and the effective implementation of the Convention, cooperation should also be explored in the area of data sharing among National Authorities on imports and exports of scheduled chemicals. Networking among National Authorities should be encouraged to enable them to more effectively monitor and control scheduled chemicals. More importantly, through cooperation among National Authorities, we should aim at eliminating any possibility of discrepancy between quantities of scheduled chemicals declared by importing and exporting States Parties.
12. In light of the expansion of chemical industries worldwide, the issues of chemical safety and security are also of high importance. Cooperation should be enhanced among chemical industries in States Parties in promoting safe and secure operation of chemical production, transportation and storage facilities. Also of great value would be capacity building and training programmes for States Parties in the prevention of chemical accidents as well as the management of chemical disasters and response to emergencies. We would also like to reiterate our support to the recommendations of the Asian Group to the Twelfth Annual Meeting of National Authorities, held in The Hague from 26 to 28 November 2010. We believe that implementation of these recommendations will help enhance the full and effective implementation of the Convention.

Mr Chairperson,

13. While the threat of use of chemical weapons is receding, concerns have shifted to the possibility of non-State actors gaining access to or making chemical weapons. The OPCW has an important role to play in the international anti-terrorism efforts.

14. Universal adherence to and full implementation of the Convention reduces the risks of chemical weapons falling into the wrong hands, thereby contributing to the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The Kingdom of Thailand commends the OPCW for the continued cooperation it rendered to the 1540 Committee and other relevant United Nations bodies, including the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate. Although the OPCW is not an anti-terrorism organisation, its work rightly complements international efforts to prevent terrorist attacks involving chemicals and raise the preparedness of States Parties to respond to such threat.

Mr Chairperson,

15. The Convention is rightly seen by many as an exemplary achievement of the multilateral efforts on disarmament. With our continued determination and commitment, it can also become a true success story of the international community. I wish to assure you, Mr Chairperson, of Thailand's commitment to working closely and constructively with other States Parties and the OPCW towards the success of this Conference and the attainment of the goals of the Convention.
16. In conclusion, Mr Chairperson, I wish to stress that the Kingdom of Thailand fully supports the positions expressed in the statement of the NAM CWC States Parties and China, which has been delivered by H.E. Ambassador Zelmys Dominguez Cortina of the Republic of Cuba. I also wish to request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Fifteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

I thank you.

--- 0 ---