



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

136 EAST 39TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10016

TEL (212) 754-2230 • FAX (212) 688-3029

Statement

by

**H.E. Dr. Suriya Chindawongse,
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of Thailand to the United Nations,**

**at the Thematic Discussion on Nuclear Weapons
before the First Committee of the 77th Session
of the United Nations General Assembly,**

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as delivered

**Mr. Chair,
Distinguished Delegates,**

1. Thailand aligns itself with the statements made on behalf of NAM and ASEAN.
2. In its very first resolution, the General Assembly identified nuclear disarmament as a primary goal of the United Nations. In one crucial respect, our multilateral architecture has proven successful -- nuclear weapons have not been used again during the past 77 years.
3. But the threat of their use still hangs over all of humanity, like the proverbial Sword of Damocles. Except its power of destruction, to all people and to our planet, is many million times more devastating.
4. Today, the situation regarding nuclear weapons, as a whole, is less stable than ever before. Even more dangerous in the view of some.
5. Look at the growing perception of the rising risks of nuclear weapons being used because of heightened geo-political tensions and conflict.
6. There is also growing questioning of the effectiveness of longstanding agreements regarding nuclear weapons that have helped underpin global nuclear stability for decades.
7. Look at the NPT: the bedrock of the global nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses regime. Yet again, the NPT Review Conference failed to adopt an outcome document. Is this the new normal for the NPT review cycle?
8. Look at the CTBT. Despite ratifications to the Treaty in recent years, there has been no progress in ratification by Annex 2 countries. It still not in force, almost three decades after the UN General Assembly adopted it. When can we expect light at the end of the tunnel?
9. There is also declining trust and confidence amongst some Nuclear Weapon States. How can this bode well for hopes of accelerated reductions in and elimination of nuclear stockpiles, either unilaterally or through arms control agreements?
10. The situation is certainly disheartening. But we cannot lose heart. Because we have no choice.

11. The First Committee is one of many platforms that we, the international community, can use to advance our common agenda on the nuclear issue.
12. So in contributing to this common agenda here, Thailand will be guided by the following three beliefs and approaches:
13. First, the only guarantee for the safety of humanity from the dangers of the use of nuclear weapons is the total and complete elimination of nuclear weapons.
14. Thailand will thus work systematically with others to advance this goal, including through promotion of the TPNW, its universalization and its complementarity with the NPT and other relevant frameworks.
15. Second, in achieving the shared end goal of a world free of nuclear weapons, Thailand believes that different initiatives can make contributions and these should therefore be seen as complementary rather than mutually exclusive.
16. From the Secretary-General's "New Agenda for Peace" to the Stockholm Initiative for Nuclear Disarmament to others, Thailand welcomes cooperation with these initiatives, whether to reduce strategic risk or set a time frame for nuclear weapons elimination, for example. We will thus be studying the various draft resolutions with an open mind, a pragmatic eye and a strong belief in our principles.
17. Third, in taking forward the efforts in both non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, regional ideas matter. So regional action should be promoted and they should interface effectively with global undertakings, in a complementary manner.
18. On this point, Thailand will continue to cooperate closely with ASEAN Partners to implement effectively the SEANWFZ Treaty and its Plan of Action and thus contribute to nuclear non-proliferation. And Thailand will support the development and effective functioning of nuclear weapons free zones in other regions including in the Middle East, recalling UNGA decision 73/546 and the 1995 resolution of the NPT on this matter.
19. Similarly, there must be strong interface between regional cooperation on peaceful uses of nuclear energy, such as ASEANTOM, and global cooperation through an effective IAEA, whose role on nuclear safety, security and safeguards, as well as on human and institutional capacities, remain indispensable and should be reinforced.

Mr. Chair,

20. Let me close by imagining the bigger picture, for a moment, drawing inspiration from John Lennon's iconic song "*Imagine*".

21. As the UN undertakes global tasks of critical priority to humanity, whether in rescuing the SDGs or addressing the climate change challenge or preparing for a Summit of the Future, perhaps we should ask the question:

How much more would these global efforts benefit from reduced risks of nuclear conflict, from reduced fear of nuclear accidents, and from reduced strain on the budget with the forgoing of nuclear weapons development?

22. Our work is relevant indeed.

Thank you.
