

Statement
by His Excellency Mr. Virachai Plasai
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Thailand
to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
at the Fourteenth Session of the Conference of States Parties
The Hague, 30 November 2009
Agenda Item 8: General Debate

Mr. Chairman,
Mr. Director-General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. First of all, let me join other delegations in congratulating you for your election as the Chairman of this year's Session of the Conference of States Parties. I am confident that under your able chairmanship, this Session will proceed smoothly and lead to successful outcomes. Allow me also to extend to the outgoing Chairman, His Excellency Ambassador Minoru Shibuya, my delegation's appreciation for his wise leadership and the good works achieved during the Thirteenth Session of the Conference of States Parties.

2. I also wish to congratulate His Excellency Ambassador Rogelio Pfirter, Director-General of the OPCW, for his opening statement which is very comprehensive and encompasses all the important aspects of the Chemical Weapons Convention. In particular, I must express my delegation's profound appreciation for his tireless efforts to promote the work of the OPCW to ensure full and effective implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Mr. Chairman,

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 and non-proliferation 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 CWC in accordance with Article VII of the Convention. In particular, we have enacted the Hazardous Substance Act of 1992 and the second Hazardous Substance Act of 2001 to impose control measures on the production, acquisition, storage, use and transfer of toxic chemical substances and substances used to produce the toxic chemical substances specified in the CWC. 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 Other Chemical Production Facilities sites.

Mr. Chairman,

5. The Kingdom of Thailand supports the universality of the CWC, which is reputed to be a highly credible and effective disarmament instrument aimed at a total elimination of chemical weapons. We are glad that this noble goal is now shared by 188 countries, with Iraq, the Dominican Republic, and Bahamas becoming States Parties to the Convention earlier this year. We 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 rid the world of the potential harms of chemical weapons.

6. 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 and the progress made so far. We congratulate India for becoming the third possessor State to have completely destroyed its stockpile this year. However, it should also be noted that there remain approximately 48 per cent of declared chemical weapons to be destroyed by the extended deadline of April 2012. With the short time remaining before the deadline, we reiterate the importance of the completion of the destruction of chemical weapons within the agreed timeframe, as failure to do so would affect the credibility and effectiveness of the CWC. We therefore urge the remaining possessor States Parties to fulfill its obligations in a timely manner.

Mr. Chairman,

7. International cooperation and assistance is another important element within the CWC. The Kingdom of Thailand commends the OPCW's continued hard work in organizing capacity-building activities under its international cooperation programmes to promote peaceful application of chemistry and legitimate activities of the chemical industry, which are of great importance for many countries, especially those with 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.

8. In this regard, The Kingdom of Thailand welcomes the resumption of consultations on the full implementation of Article XI and supports the initiative to organize a workshop next year with a view to developing concrete and appropriate measures towards that end. 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.

9. To further enhance the object and purpose and the effective implementation of the CWC, cooperation should also be explored in the area of data sharing among National Authorities on imports and exports of Scheduled chemicals. Guidelines

could be developed in this regard and networking among National Authorities should be encouraged to enable them to more effectively monitor and control Scheduled chemicals. More importantly, through cooperation among the National Authorities, we should aim at eliminating any possibility of discrepancy between quantities of Scheduled chemicals declared by importing and exporting States Parties.

10. 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.

11. Thai chemical industries attach great importance to industry safety and environmental management activities. Approximately 70 per cent of our chemical industries have adopted the “Responsible Care Global Charter” issued by the International Council of Chemical Association. We are ready to work together with other States Parties through sharing of information to contribute to safe and secure operation of the global chemical industry.

Mr. Chairman,

12. 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.

13. Universal adherence to and full implementation of the CWC reduces risks of chemical weapons falling into the wrong hands, thereby contributing to the implementation of the UNSC Resolution 1540 and the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The Kingdom of Thailand commends the OPCW for the continued cooperation it rendered to the 1540 Committee and other relevant UN bodies, including the Counter Terrorism Committee and the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate.

Mr. Chairman,

14. The CWC is seen by many as an example of achievement of the multilateral efforts on disarmament and non-proliferation. With our continued determination and commitment, it can also become a true success story of the international community. I wish to assure you, Mr. Chairman, of Thailand’s commitment to work 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.

I thank you.
