



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

Twenty-First Session
28 November – 2 December 2016

C-21/NAT.6
28 November 2016
ENGLISH only

THAILAND

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THAILAND AT THE
TWENTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

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

The Kingdom of Thailand wishes to congratulate Your Excellency Dr Christoph Israng, Ambassador of Germany, on your election as Chairperson of the Twenty-First Session of the Conference of the States Parties. Our delegation is confident that under Your Excellency's leadership, we may all look forward to a successful conference. We must also express our sincere thanks to His Excellency Ambassador Eduardo Ibarrola-Nicolin of Mexico for his guidance and efforts as Chairperson of the Twentieth Session.

The delegation of Thailand would also like to express appreciation to His Excellency Director-General Ahmet Üzümcü and the Technical Secretariat for their hard work and great contributions to supporting the Convention and all of its States Parties.

Thailand aligns itself with the statement delivered by Her Excellency Ambassador Haifa Aissami of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on behalf of the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement that are States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and China.

Thailand remains committed to the Chemical Weapons Convention and all of its provisions. Our view on the use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere, and under any circumstances as being abhorrent, remains unchanged. Furthermore, we maintain our belief that the destruction of all chemical weapons and facilities, under effective international control, is imperative under the framework of the Convention. The complete elimination of chemical weapons, and that of all categories of weapons of mass destruction, are key milestones of achievement on the road to sustainable international peace and security. As such, Thailand recognises the importance of the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, and we encourage all States not yet Party to accede to or ratify the Convention at the earliest opportunity, for the widest application of its provisions, and the universalisation of efforts towards disarmament and non-proliferation.

Thailand recognises the Syrian Arab Republic's endeavours to cooperate with the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. Like many members of the international community, Thailand is seriously concerned with the risks posed by any and all



weapons of mass destruction to the lives and livelihoods of all citizens. We believe it is imperative that the provisions of the Convention be upheld by all stakeholders, including non-State actors. We urge the Syrian Government to continue its cooperation with the OPCW-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism, pursuant to United Nations Security Council resolution 2235 (2015). Through enhanced collaboration and communication, it is hoped that the situation on the ground would be improved and any assistance to alleviate the humanitarian needs of the people can be provided effectively.

Turning homeward, Thailand continues to honour its obligations to the Convention, sparing no effort to provide information and submit declarations to the OPCW on a regular basis. We also constantly work to strengthen our legislation on non-proliferation and export control. Recently, our Cabinet approved the Trade Controls on WMD-related Items Act in September 2016, which will regulate the export of dual-use items, including those that are chemical weapons-related, in accordance with national and international legal regimes.

Additionally, we are improving upon our Hazardous Substances Act, enacted in 1992, to better meet international standards and make better use of modern technologies. Following the Thailand 4.0 policy, which gives focus to digital connectivity, among other priorities, we have plans to establish the Hazardous Substances Single Submission (HSSS), an electronic system where relevant stakeholders can access information from anywhere and at any time. They will also be able to apply for permits and licenses relating to hazardous substances with convenience, speed and efficiency. This online platform will integrate the work of six government agencies and streamline the regulatory process, helping industry and academia to satisfy national and international control measures with ease and hassle free.

To further engage the private sector, as well as academic and research institutions, our National Authority, namely, the Department of Industrial Works of the Ministry of Industry, constantly strives to strengthen its network of companies and universities working in the chemical field as they are key players in ensuring compliance with the provisions of the Convention. At present, the Department of Industrial Works is in close collaboration with several schools, working to raise awareness on chemical safety, with the goal of incorporating chemical management education into the relevant undergraduate programmes. Similarly, our National Authority has increased communication and dialogue with the Thai private sector and, as a result, we have seen their increased participation in OPCW-related activities. In the past year, many Thai companies have taken part in chemical safety and security management workshops and meetings hosted by the OPCW and other States Parties to the Convention, in addition to their presence on OPCW Day in May 2016 for the first time. This is indicative of the elevated recognition of the importance of chemical safety and security culture in both the academic and business communities.

Thailand commends the OPCW for its good work and dedication to facilitate the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. We welcome further opportunities to interact and cooperate with the Organisation. Our private and academic sectors have never been more engaged in chemical safety and security, nor more keen to take part in national, regional, and international outreach programmes. Thailand plans to foster and nurture this trend through increased awareness raising activities, such as information-sharing sessions or regional workshops on chemical safety and security management, green chemistry, and other peaceful uses of chemistry. We hope we can pursue these activities in partnership with the OPCW. Not only would such an event bolster capacity-building efforts, but it would also be a constructive and meaningful way to mark the twentieth anniversary of the Organisation.

The Kingdom of Thailand stands ready to contribute its good will and effort to working with you, our colleagues from other States Parties, and the OPCW, to ensure a successful and satisfactory Conference, as we together aspire to achieve the object and purpose of the Convention and the overarching goal of international security and peace.

Lastly, may I request that this statement be considered an official document of the Twenty-first Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

I thank you, Mr Chairperson.

--- 0 ---