



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

Twenty-Second Session
27 November – 1 December 2017

C-22/NAT.31
29 November 2017
ENGLISH only

THAILAND

**STATEMENT BY MRS ANONG PAIJITPRAPAPON
DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL , DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL WORKS
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY
DELEGATION OF THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND AT THE
TWENTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

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

May I first take this opportunity, on behalf of the Thai delegation, to congratulate Your Excellency Ambassador Bellouki of Morocco on your election as Chairperson of this year's Conference of the States Parties. Our appreciation also extends to His Excellency Ambassador Israng of Germany, for his efforts as Chairperson of the Twenty-First Session of the Conference as well as to His Excellency Director-General Üzümcü and the Technical Secretariat for their diligence and continuous contribution in support of the Convention and its implementation.

Thailand aligns itself with the statement delivered by Her Excellency Ambassador Aissami of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on behalf of the States Parties that are Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and China.

For twenty years, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) have been prominent fixtures on the mantel of global disarmament regimes. As one of the most comprehensive conventions on the prohibition of weapons of mass destruction, the Convention enjoys near universality and a broad scope of coverage; from chemical categorisation and control, to verification, and to cooperation. Without these two vital mechanisms, chemical disarmament achievements such as the removal of all chemical precursors from Libya and the completion of the destruction of the Russian Federation's remaining chemical weapons stockpile would not have been possible. Thailand welcomes these significant developments and regards them as a testament to the effectiveness of the Convention and as concrete contributions to global peace and security.

Thailand also recognises the important work of the OPCW in the Syrian Arab Republic and strongly supports the endeavours and mandates of the Declaration Assessment Team (DAT), the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM), and the OPCW-United Nations Joint Investigative



Mechanisms (JIM). In this regard, we wish to encourage the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to continue to cooperate closely with these OPCW instruments, ensuring that the use of chemical weapons does not go unchecked or unrebuked.

In this connection, Thailand regrets that the JIM's mandate was not extended. There is still much more to be done to investigate the incidents of chemical weapons use in the Syrian Arab Republic and hold the proven offenders to account. A mechanism to execute such operations is necessary and States Parties must come together to constructively address the concerns raised about the JIM and consider how to renew confidence in the mechanism.

Rapid developments in science and technology, increased connectivity, and the persistent threats posed by non-State actors create an ever-changing challenge to our collective security and compel us to think carefully and strategically about how we move the Convention forward while ensuring its relevancy.

For this reason, Thailand welcomes the OPCW Executive Council's decision on "Addressing the Threat Posed by the Use of Chemical Weapons by Non-State Actors", reached at its Eighty-Sixth Session earlier in October. Not only does this bring the issue of non-State actors and their possible employment of chemical weapons into better light, but it also indicates the OPCW's appreciation of the existing linkages between the Convention and other non-proliferation regimes, especially the United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). Looking forward, we must be cognisant of how these multilateral instruments are interconnected and together have bearings on our goals of sustainable peace and security.

By looking forward, it also means engaging all stakeholders and giving further focus to chemical safety and security. Our National Authority has recently undergone a restructure for this reason; to not only oversee the control of hazardous substances but to also promote safety and security in handling such substances as a key priority to our industrial and academic sectors.

Our National Authority is also working to launch the Hazardous Substances Single Submission (HSSS), an electronic system where stakeholders may apply for permits and licenses relating to hazardous substances online. The HSSS is currently under testing but once up and running, the system will be an effective tool for facilitating chemical safety and security implementation for all of our industrial and scientific community members.

Thailand enjoys close and dynamic cooperation with the OPCW. We believe that in order to achieve effective chemical safety and security, continuous exchange of knowledge and know-how between our domestic stakeholders and their international counterparts is essential. We consistently encourage our government officials, industry representatives, and researchers to participate in OPCW activities and for two consecutive years, Thailand has been represented in the OPCW's capacity-building Associate Programme. Furthermore, we plan to host an industry attachment to the programme in 2018.

Alternatively, we try to engage our regional and international colleagues as the host of Convention related events. In July this year, we hosted the Regional Dialogue on "Promoting Global Peace and Prosperity through Chemical Safety and Security", with the kind support of the OPCW. Not only were we able to join in the celebrations of the twentieth anniversary of the Organisation, but also bring together policy, industry, and technical experts from the Asia

Pacific to share their diverse insights and experiences on chemical safety and security implementation.

In 2018, Thailand plans to host another workshop on chemical safety and security, to emphasise the importance of these concepts and how they are the very basis of sustained chemical weapons disarmament. Additionally, the Chemical Society of Thailand will host the eighth International Conference on Green Chemistry with the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry or IUPAC, in September 2018, in Bangkok – the first time this conference is organised in Asia.

The Convention and the OPCW have come a long way, contributing substantively to our global security architecture for the past twenty years. Ninety-six per cent of the world's declared chemical weapons stockpiles have been destroyed and strong and effective measures are in place to check and balance what is left. The total elimination of chemical weapons is a goal within reach, but beyond that, is the goal of sustainable peace and security. Thailand looks forward to working with the OPCW and all stakeholders to meet the Convention's obligations and together realising our desired goal.

Thank you very much, Mr Chairperson.

--- 0 ---