

**Statement by
H.E. Ambassador Suchitra Hiranprueck
Representative of the Kingdom of Thailand
at the Second Special Session of the Conference of States Parties
to review the operation of the
Chemical Weapons Convention
(Second Review Conference)
9 April 2008
The Hague, Netherlands**

**Mr. Chairman,
Director - General,
Distinguished delegates,**

Allow me at the outset to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on your election as Chairman of the Second Review Conference. Please be assured of my delegation's full support and cooperation. I am confident that your leadership will guide this Conference to its successful conclusion.

I would also like to convey my appreciation to H.E. Mr. Lyn Parker, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as Chairperson of the Open-ended Working Group for his stewardship in the substantive preparation for this important Conference. My final appreciation must go to the Director-General and the Technical Secretariat for the active role they've played in the operation of CWC.

I would like to associate my delegation with the joint statement by the NAM CWC States Parties and China.

Mr. Chairman,

During the past 11 years of existence, the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) has proven by far to be the most successful legal instrument aimed at eliminating an entire category of weapons of mass destruction. With near universal membership, the CWC has played a key role in the multilateral efforts to enhance global peace and security through general and complete disarmament. Since the First Review, we note some positive development in the implementation of the Convention in many areas. The number of State Parties has increased to 183, with most having put in place the responsible National Authorities.

Possessor States Parties have made significant progress towards destruction of stockpiles of chemical weapons and the closure of production facilities, with Albania being the first country to complete the irreversible destruction of its total chemical stockpiles. States Parties have also made efforts to comply with their general obligations and related declarations. However, there remains serious challenges we have to face before we can realize our collective goal of a world free of chemical weapons. Of priority concern is the remaining 63% of the declared Category I chemical weapon stockpiles that are yet to be destroyed by 2012. My delegation, therefore, join in the call for possessor States Parties to intensify efforts to strictly comply with the final deadline for the destruction of their chemical weapons stockpiles.

Mr. Chairman,

Another great challenge in the implementation of the Convention is the universality of membership. Thailand appreciates the active role of the Director-General and the Technical Secretariat in implementing the Action Plan as well as efforts by several member countries in this regards. While the number of non States Parties has come down to 12, the pace of ratification or accession has slowed down in recent years, and this issue remains a big challenge. Thailand views the universal ratification and accession to the CWC as a necessary condition to creating a unified standard and transparency in the chemical weapons disarmament and non-proliferation regime, and hence contributing to global peace and security. We encourage more efforts on the part of the Technical Secretariat and member states and appeal to all States not party to the Convention to take steps to ratify or accede to it as soon as possible.

Mr. Chairman,

The situation concerning the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, in particular the risk involving non-State actors and terrorists, remains a serious global concern. Thailand recognizes the important role and contribution of the CWC and the OPCW in support of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 and the UN Global Counter-terrorism Strategy.

Thailand attaches great importance to the full and effective implementation of the Convention as the means to counter the proliferation of chemical weapons. Thailand has fully complied with its obligations and commitments under the Convention. Thailand submits without fail the annual declarations of past and anticipated activities, taking great care to ascertain the accuracy

and the confidentiality of the information in its reports. Nonetheless, our experience has shown that, in the reporting of the imports and exports of chemicals, information from the exporting country at times does not match the information provided by the importing country. Member States should discuss ways to improve the accuracy of Convention's reporting mechanism, with a view toward the ability to take full account of trade in chemicals. This is essential in order to make sure that certain discrepancies in the report do not represent the diversion of chemicals for use in harmful and illicit purposes. In this sense, a strong partnership between the National Authority and the private industry is crucial.

As Thailand is neither a possessor nor a producer state of chemical weapons, our implementation activities with regard to the Convention mainly concern the chemical industry. Thailand always has rendered its full cooperation to routine verification visits by OPCW officials. In our view, verification must be conducted in a fair, balanced, and standardized manner. This is to ensure the trust and willing compliance on part of the chemical industry operators, whose facilities are regularly subjected to inspection by the OPCW.

Mr. Chairman,

As a developing country that is committed to the peaceful use of chemicals for the advancement of science and technology, Thailand places a strong emphasis on international cooperation in the field of chemical activities for legitimate purposes. Provisions under this Convention relating the use, transfer, and trade of technology, material, equipment, and knowledge must not be used as discriminatory barriers that hamper economic and technological development, in the spirit of Article XI of the Convention. The full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of this Article underpins the objectives of this Convention. Thailand also wishes to highlight the importance of capacity building and technical assistance to enable all States Parties to fully and effectively comply with the obligations under the Convention. Any adjustments in the Convention in response to new scientific developments and discoveries must be met by commensurate budget increase in the area of technical assistance, as provided by Article X of the Convention.

Mr. Chairman,

Thailand ratified the CWC on 10 December 2002. The Convention entered into force for Thailand on 9 January 2003. Our conviction and commitment to the CWC remain as unwavering as the first day that we became a State Party. My delegation is ready to engage with all States Parties in a frank and

open discussion, in a positive spirit and a constructive atmosphere, to ensure the success of the Second Review Conference.

Thank you.
