



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

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Statement

by

H.E. Mr. Vathayudh Vichankaiyakij,

Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Thailand

to the United Nations,

**at the Plenary of the 2025 Substantive Session
of the United Nations Disarmament Commission,**

7 April 2025,

New York

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Mr. Chair,

1. I wish to congratulate you on your election as Chair of the 2025 Substantive Session of the UNDC, as well as Georgia and El Salvador for their election as working group Chairs. Thailand will render our full support and cooperation to you and members of the Bureau to ensure a productive session.
2. Thailand aligns itself with the statements delivered by Indonesia on behalf of the NAM and by Malaysia on behalf of ASEAN.

Mr. Chair,

3. Amid rising geopolitical tensions and the rapid advancement of emerging technologies, such as cyber capabilities, outer space technologies, and artificial intelligence, the threats to international peace and security have become increasingly complex. Addressing these challenges requires concerted efforts and a commitment to multilateralism.
4. Thailand welcomes the adoption of the Pact for the Future, which provides a strong foundation for collective action in addressing these challenges. World leaders have reaffirmed their shared commitment to a world free of nuclear weapons and the fulfillment of disarmament obligations. The Pact also outlines concrete steps across all aspects of disarmament, including addressing potential risks posed by emerging technologies. Thailand remains committed to advancing these goals through constructive and inclusive engagement with all partners.

Mr. Chair,

5. The world order stands at a critical juncture. We must redouble our efforts to strengthen multilateralism and prioritize peace and security. The UN Disarmament Commission (UNDC) plays a pivotal and unique role, with its universal membership, in fostering dialogue, enhancing trust, and building confidence among Member States. It is, therefore, essential that we demonstrate the political will and flexibility needed to achieve tangible results in this cycle. Allow me to outline the following key priorities under working group 1:
6. First, Thailand is committed to full and effective implementation of international agreements on the disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, including the NPT, the TPNW and the CTBT. The complementary efforts and synergies among these frameworks are essential in preventing the catastrophic

humanitarian and environmental consequences of nuclear weapons. Thailand is contributing to these efforts by co-facilitating a TPNW informal working group on complementarity. We firmly believe that total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only way to guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

7. The increase in military spending, the growing stockpiles of nuclear warheads, the use of nuclear rhetoric, and the reliance on doctrines that emphasize nuclear deterrence present significant challenges to the progress of nuclear disarmament. Despite the current impasse, Thailand hopes that the United States and Russia will make efforts to resume compliance with the New START Treaty and initiate discussions on its successor treaty before its expiration next February.

8. Second, despite the consecutive failure to reach an outcome under the review process, the NPT remains the cornerstone of the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation architecture. Therefore, concerted efforts must be directed towards achieving a successful outcome of the 2026 NPT Review Conference next year. Thailand looks forward to engaging constructively with all parties at the upcoming 2025 NPT Preparatory Committee.

9. We urge all States Parties to reaffirm all the commitments and undertakings agreed at previous Review Conferences, particularly the unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon States to achieve the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals, leading to nuclear disarmament in accordance with Article VI. Concrete interim risk reduction measures are imperative but cannot be a substitute for the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

10. Third, Thailand strongly supports the CTBT as a crucial mechanism for strengthening the global disarmament and non-proliferation regime. Thus, we remain steadfast in supporting the universalization of the CTBT and its entry-into-force at the earliest. Thailand calls on the remaining Annex-2 States to ratify the Treaty.

11. Fourth, as the Depositary of the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) or the Bangkok Treaty, Thailand supports the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in all regions, including the Middle East. We call on nuclear-weapon States to fully respect their commitments with regard to security assurances. Further efforts should be taken to provide a new legally-binding commitment on security assurances, including in the context of nuclear-weapon-free zones.

Mr. Chair,

12. Under working group 2, Thailand recognizes the need to deepen our understanding and enhance discussion on emerging technologies. The application of artificial intelligence (AI) in the military domain carries significant implications for international peace and security, presenting both challenges and opportunities.

13. Thailand strongly supports ongoing international efforts to promote dialogue on the responsible use of artificial intelligence in the military domain, particularly with regard to lethal autonomous weapon systems. We emphasize that the application of emerging technologies must align with international law, including the UN Charter and international humanitarian law.

14. Furthermore, we affirm that access to outer space is an inalienable right of all States. Outer space must be preserved for peaceful purposes and the common good of humanity. All space activities must adhere to international law, including the UN Charter and the Outer Space Treaty. The increasing risks of outer space being militarized pose serious threats to international peace and security

Mr. Chair,

15. I wish to conclude by reiterating that the UNDC holds a pivotal responsibility in strengthening our collective efforts toward a more secure and peaceful world. Thailand will actively participate in the working group discussions as well as working closely with all Member States to ensure a constructive and positive outcome from this substantive session.

Thank you.

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