



**Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations Office
and Other International Organizations in Geneva**

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STATEMENT

BY

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AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THAILAND
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AND
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA**

**AT THE SIXTH REVIEW CONFERENCE OF
THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF
THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND STOCKPILING OF
BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) AND TOXIN WEAPONS
AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION**

GENEVA, 21 NOVEMBER 2006

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like join others in congratulating you, Ambassador Khan, on your assumption of the Presidency of the Sixth Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC). I am confident that under your skilful guidance and strong leadership, this Conference will yield fruitful results.

Mr. President,

The Thai Delegation believes that the BWC -- the first multilateral disarmament treaty banning a specific category of weapons of mass destruction -- is as important and relevant today as when it was first adopted in 1972. In this era of bio-technological advances, in which a genuine threat of bio-terrorism exists, the BWC presents us with an avenue for addressing the threats posed by biological and toxin weapons. It must be stressed that the BWC is a living document and we, as States Parties to the Convention, have an obligation to ensure that it continually evolves to take into account new scientific and technological developments relevant to the Convention.

Mr. President,

In regard to the strengthening of the BWC, Thailand would like to stress two important points which are non-exhaustive.

First, the Thai Delegation believes that the effectiveness of the Convention as a whole can be enhanced if more States become Parties to the BWC. Therefore, a more systematic approach to achieving universalisation of the Convention would be welcomed. Thailand notes that during a Conference held recently in Paris by the EU Institute for Security Studies, Ambassador Khan called for universal compliance of the Convention prior to 2011. Mr. President, please rest assured that Thailand will support initiatives towards achieving this objective.

Secondly, it is important to stress that each individual State has an obligation to ensure national implementation and compliance with the BWC. Article 4 of the Convention compels States Parties to take necessary measures to implement the Convention in accordance with its constitutional processes. These measures cover both legal and administrative measures to ensure comprehensive and effective implementation of the Convention.

Thailand also supports the further strengthening of and compliance with the BWC through multilateral negotiations with the aim of concluding a legally binding instrument towards this end.

Mr. President,

Thailand may not be a major actor when it comes to disarmament. However, we believe that a step in the right direction, no matter how small, can contribute to progress in disarmament and arms regulation. Thailand has never developed, used, produced, acquired or stockpiled any biological or toxin weapons. Since becoming a Party to the BWC, Thailand has taken its commitments and obligations seriously. Several new pieces of legislation and administrative guidelines have been put in place, such as the Hazardous Substances Act of 1992 and 2001, and the 1992 Royal Decree Controlling the Exportation of Arms, Armaments and War Implements. To facilitate national implementation of the BWC, the Royal Thai Government has designated the National Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, or BIOTEC, under the Ministry of Science and Technology, as the BWC national focal point. The interagency BWC Working Group established by the BIOTEC has undertaken several activities, such as the dissemination of information on the BWC to the government agencies concerned as well as the general public. The Working Group has also conducted data collection activities in several areas relevant to the BWC, such as activities relating to biological research carried out by both the public and private sectors.

A BWC Coordinating Committee headed by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Science and Technology was also appointed on 29 March 2006. It is composed of 19 members from 6 relevant ministries and has an initial mandate of 2 years. Among its members are the representatives of agencies which serve as national focal points for the Nuclear and Chemical Weapons Conventions. We hope that this will ensure a more comprehensive approach to the national implementation of all these different but interrelated conventions.

Mr. President,

In closing, I wish to note that the BWC makes a distinction between biological activities for peaceful purposes and other activities. Hence, the right of States Parties to pursue economic and technological development and international cooperation in the area of biological activities for peaceful purposes, in accordance with Article 10 of the Convention, must be fully respected. Thailand believes that development can contribute to the strengthening of the BWC. Therefore, it should not be hampered by the implementation of this same Convention.

I thank you.
