
Conference on Disarmament

7 April 2010

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LETTER DATED 26 MARCH 2010 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THAILAND ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING, ON BEHALF OF TWENTY ONE OBSERVER STATES TO THE CONFERENCE, A LETTER DATED 22 MARCH 2010

I have the honour to refer to the letter from the Permanent Mission of Thailand on behalf of a number of the Observer States to the Conference on Disarmament No. 52101/221 dated 22 March 2010 addressed to you in the capacity of President of the Conference on Disarmament, requesting the President to distribute the said letter to the Conference on Disarmament.

In this connection, I wish to further clarify our request that the letter be distributed as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

(Signed) Vijavat Isarabhakdi
Chargé d'affaires
Permanent Mission of Thailand

Excellency,

I wish to first congratulate you on your assumption as President of the Conference on Disarmament.

On this occasion, I have the honour to inform you that on 9 March 2010, Thailand coordinated an expert-level Informal Meeting of the Observer States to the Conference on Disarmament. Representatives of 21 Observer States to the Conference on Disarmament met in order to exchange views on the roles of Observers in the Conference, the current work of the Conference and historical development of the expansion of the membership. The representatives present at the Meeting were from the following Observer States: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Guatemala, Holy See, Jordan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Moldova, Montenegro, the Philippines, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia, Thailand, and Uruguay. Other Observer States expressing interest in joining the Meeting included Armenia, Dominican Republic, Denmark, Iceland, Latvia, and Malta.

On behalf of the Observer States mentioned above, I have the honour to inform you as follows.

1. We express deep appreciation for participation in the Meeting by the representatives of the Permanent Mission of Belarus, in its capacity as President of the Conference at the time, and of the Permanent Mission of Belgium, in its capacity as the upcoming President, as well as Mr. Peter Kolarov from the UN Secretariat, in his capacity as former Special Coordinator on the Expansion of the Membership of the Conference on Disarmament.
2. Overall, we found such interactive engagement between the Presidency and the Observer States of the Conference on Disarmament both valuable and constructive. The briefing by the Belarus Presidency kept the Observer States better informed about the progress of the Conference. We also thank the Belgian representative for giving positive indication at the Meeting that such briefing would continue during the Belgian Presidency.
3. Mr. Kolarov's presentation also shed light on previous expansions of the Conference and subsequent consultations. The Meeting found the presentation on the evolution of the Conference membership useful for future deliberation on the expansion of the Conference.
4. The positive gestures from the Belgian and Belarus presidencies were an encouraging development towards transparency and inclusiveness of the Observer States in the Conference. In this regard, we ask for your kind assistance in informing the P-6 members of the Informal Meeting of the Observer States to the Conference on Disarmament as well as to circulate this letter at the next plenary meeting of the Conference.
5. Based on this first positive experience, it is our wish to request, through you, a briefing by each Presidency to our group of interested Observer States at a mutually convenient time for the rest of the 2010 sessions and beyond.
6. Currently the level of interaction between the Observer States and their respective regional groups varies. We appreciate that certain regional groups have either shared information with the Observer States or allowed for participation by the Observer States in their regional group meetings. Meanwhile, some Observer States may not participate in their regional group meeting in any capacity. We therefore ask the coordinators of regional groups to enhance their engagement with the Observer States.

To conclude, on behalf of the Observer States mentioned earlier, we reassure you of our strong support for the Conference of Disarmament and wish you much success for the rest of your Presidency.

(Signed) (Sahasak Phuangketkeow)
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand
