



**Statement by Mr. Sek WANNAMETHEE**  
**Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Thailand**  
**to the United Nations Office in Geneva**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Ministerial Review Conference**  
**of the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development**

**31 October 2011**

**Mr. Chairman,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,**

On behalf of the Thai Delegation, let me first of all express my sincere gratitude to the Swiss Government and the UNDP for organizing this very important meeting to review the progress made in the implementation of the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development.

As a Core Group member, we are encouraged to see the progress achieved in terms of the increase in the number of countries which have endorsed the Geneva Declaration since its adoption in 2006. This underscores the growing recognition of the significance of the linkage between armed violence and development and the twin challenge that it pose for many of our countries. In this regard, I wish to once again reiterate Thailand's view that, in the context of advancing the objectives of the Geneva Declaration, armed violence and development are, in effect, two sides of the same coin. Therefore, our collective efforts to address these issues are indeed mutually reinforcing and need to go hand-in-hand.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We wish to commend those who have constructively and actively engaged in the preparations of this meeting for coming up with a balanced and comprehensive draft outcome document. We believe that the document provides solid basis for our continued efforts to address armed violence and promote development in a holistic manner, and therefore wish to join others in endorsing this document.

In this regard, I wish to address a few issues that are of particular importance to my delegation.

First, promoting and achieving human security must lie at the heart of our collective efforts. In light of this, it is important for us to be mindful that we must approach economic development from a broader and deeper perspective. In particular, it is incumbent upon us to tackle the root causes that provide breeding grounds for violence. While in some countries, violence may largely result from ethnic and intra-state conflicts; in many cases, it may stem

from lack of opportunity, education, social justice and inequality, as well as large income gaps. In our efforts to address these manifold challenges, it is imperative that we must also endeavor to promote a culture of respect for human rights, a culture of tolerance and rule of law whereby tensions and potential conflicts can be resolved through dialogue and peaceful means.

Second, as highlighted in the draft outcome document, awareness-raising on the nexus between armed violence and development at the regional and global levels can be beneficial and should therefore be intensified. Raising international awareness serves to provide the needed political impetus, but, in the final analysis, it is up to each country to incorporate these considerations into its development and security policies and planning at the national level. In this regard, it should be maintained that there is no one-size-fits-all solution, but rather a multi-pronged and people-centered approach that fully take into account the specific circumstances and situation of the concerned countries should be the way forward.

Therefore, while the draft outcome document underlines the importance of a concerted and accelerated effort based on international cooperation to reduce and prevent armed violence, it is also important to bear in mind the need to promote a sense of commitment and ownership on the part of countries concerned if we are to succeed in translating the lofty goals we have set for ourselves in the Geneva Declaration into concrete actions that produces meaningful impact in the lives of millions of people who suffer from violence and underdevelopment.

**Mr. Chairman,**

In closing, Thailand will continue to make full use of the guidelines provided by the Geneva Declaration as part of our broader framework for tackling armed violence and promoting development. As a member of the Core Group, we stand ready to do our utmost to promote the principles of the Geneva Declaration and to ensure that they can make a real difference on the ground.

I thank you for your kind attention.

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