



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

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**Right of Reply**

**by**

**His Excellency Mr. Cherdchai Chaivaivid,  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand  
to the United Nations**

**at the General Debate of  
2026 ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development Follow-up,**

**22 April 2026, UNHQ, New York**

**Right of Reply**  
**by H.E. Mr. Cherdchai Chaivaivid**  
**Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand**  
**to the United Nations**  
**at the 2026 ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development Follow-up**  
**Wednesday, 22 April 2026**  
**United Nations Headquarters, New York**

1. Thank you, Mr. President.
2. I am exercising this Right of Reply to the Statement made by the delegation of Cambodia.
3. Thailand has long championed sustainable development, at home and with our neighbours, friends and partners around the world. I trust that our track record speaks for itself.
4. Our longstanding engagement with Cambodia in this area is a case in point. Thailand supported peace-building, nation-building and development in Cambodia since its independence in 1953, through its civil war in the 70's and the 80's - *when Thailand played host to hundreds of thousands of Cambodians fleeing the conflict at any given time, and about a million displaced persons in total over the course of the crisis* -, through the Paris Peace Agreements of 1991, and its membership of ASEAN in 1999 -- helping to re-integrate Cambodia into the international community and global economy. Since Covid-19, we have provided technical assistance of over 17 million USD to Cambodia, in the form of development assistance, projects and scholarships.
5. It is therefore deeply regrettable that these efforts have produced a **negative rate of return** to the mutually beneficial relations we nourished over the years.
6. In July and December 2025, Cambodia **initiated unprovoked and indiscriminate armed attacks on Thai territory**. These attacks claimed 19 civilian lives, injured 51 others, displaced over 400,000 people and affected more than 400 hospitals. Thailand was obliged to exercise its right of self-defence in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter.

Mr. President

7. Conflict disrupts development and misinformation undermines trust. And sadly, it is the people on the ground who pay the price.

8. Take the issue of landmines. Cambodia has suffered gravely from landmines and has received robust ODA to clear them, yet it continues to indiscriminately deploy them against innocent civilians, and plant new ones. As a result, these border areas, where people of both sides could have been engaging in economic activities and development, have now become contaminated with landmines.
9. Take also the issue of illicit financial flows. It is well documented that Cambodia hosts a number of online scam syndicates, with estimated annual revenues as high as 19 billion USD, equivalent to nearly 40% of the country's GDP. This has caused financial losses for victims across the globe, not to mention tens of thousands of forced labors and victims of human trafficking. And this *is* money lost to crime, at the cost of development.

Mr. President,

10. **It is in Thailand's interest to see the Cambodian people prosper**, and for there to be sustainable peace and development along our shared border. Thailand calls on Cambodia to cease the dissemination of inaccurate information and demonstrate good faith, and genuine readiness and sincerity in walking this path with Thailand.

I thank you.

(463 words)