



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

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Statement

by

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Counsellor

**before the Sixth Committee of the 81st Session
of the United Nations General Assembly**

Agenda Item 88

**United Nations Conference of Plenipotentiaries
on Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters**

13 October 2026, New York

Madam Chair,

1. Thailand aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of ASEAN and with the statement delivered by Nigeria on behalf of the PPED Core Group. Allow me to add the following remarks in our national capacity.

2. Thailand has long supported a stronger international legal framework for the protection of persons in the event of disasters. As a member of the Core Group since 2023, we have worked closely with partners to move this process from discussion to negotiation. Through resolutions 79/128 and 80/169, the General Assembly decided to convene a Conference of Plenipotentiaries to elaborate and conclude a legally binding instrument on this topic. **Thailand is honored that, by decision 80/551, the Assembly accepted our offer to host the Conference in Bangkok from 25 January to 12 February 2027.**

3. **We are also proud that H.E. Mrs. Suphanvasa Chotikajan Tang chaired the Preparatory Committee.** Under her leadership, delegations laid the practical and procedural foundations for the Conference, including the referral of the consolidated text; arrangements for stakeholder participation; and recommendation on the organization of the Conference, including the programme of work and rules of procedure, among others. Thailand thanks the Secretariat, the Bureau, the coordinators, delegations, and stakeholders for their constructive engagement. **The same spirit of dialogue and flexibility will also be needed in Bangkok.**

Madam Chair,

4. Hosting this Conference carries special meaning for Thailand. The 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami remains deeply etched in our national memory. It demonstrated both the devastating human cost of disasters and the value of international cooperation when national capacities are overwhelmed. **We therefore see our role as host not simply as a logistical responsibility, but as part of our commitment to bringing this long-standing process to fruition.**

5. **Our shared objective should be clear: a Convention that is practical, balanced, and consensus-based.** It should place the protection, dignity, and rights of affected persons at its center, while fully respecting State sovereignty, including the primary role of the affected State and the requirement of consent for external assistance. It should also address the full disaster risk management cycle, from prevention and preparedness to response and recovery.

6. **The Convention should also reinforce the duty to cooperate.** No State, regardless of its level of development, can always face disasters of growing scale and complexity alone. Capacity-building, as well as the sharing of knowledge, expertise, and technology should therefore be central to our negotiations.

Madam Chair,

7. The international community has already devoted many years to building the legal foundations for this Convention. The International Law Commission completed its draft articles in 2016, and the General Assembly has now established a negotiating process aimed at concluding a legally binding instrument by the end of 2027 at the latest. **Our task now is to turn that legal work and political commitment into an instrument that makes a real difference when disasters strike.**

8. Thailand stands ready to continue working with all delegations. **We look forward to welcoming you to Bangkok early next year, and to working together in a spirit of constructive dialogue, flexibility, and consensus towards a Convention that strengthens international cooperation, protects human dignity, and ultimately saves lives.**

I thank you.

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