



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

136 EAST 39th STREET · NEW YORK, NY 10016

TEL (212) 754-2230 • FAX (212) 688-3029

Statement

by

His Excellency Dr. Suriya Chindawongse

**Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand
to the United Nations**

At Plenary of the 77th Session

of the United Nations General Assembly

**Agenda Item 125: Question of Equitable Representation on
and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council
and Other Matters related to the Security Council**

17 November 2022, UNHQ, New York

As delivered

Mr. President,

1. At the outset, I wish to thank Ambassador Alya, Permanent Representative of Qatar and Ambassador Martin, Permanent Representative of Denmark, Co-Chairs of the Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) on Security Council Reform for leading the process capably throughout the 76th Session of the General Assembly.

2. My delegation also wishes to congratulate the appointment of Ambassador Michal, Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic and Ambassador Tareq, Permanent Representative of the State of Kuwait, as Co-Chairs during the 77th session of the General Assembly. You have our support.

Mr. President,

3. Reforming the United Nations Security Council, the body entrusted with the critical task of maintaining international peace and security, is of greater urgency than ever. We only have to look at the world around us to understand why this is so.

4. Now and today, humankind faces “the highest number of violent conflicts since 1945”, as the Secretary-General puts it.

5. The present conflicts, geo-political tensions and increased polarization in the global geo-strategic landscape and climate, have led to food, energy, financial and other crises. These in tandem are eroding our ability, collectively and individually, to sustain recovery efforts from the pandemic, to promote human security for all and to attain the SDGs so no one is left behind.

6. No country has escaped unscathed from these crises; in this, we are together. Indeed if current trends continue unchecked, we are also at risk of all of us being left behind.

7. So to help support the international community’s shared aspirations and collective undertakings to better address those current and future challenges, a reformed Security Council is one important pathway.

8. On this pathway, Thailand remains an advocate for a reform that results in greater efficiency, effectiveness, accountability and transparency of the Council. Thailand also hopes for a reform that will inculcate and cultivate greater unity, greater partnership within the Council, as it seeks to help overcome present global challenges and future ones in cooperation with the international community.

9. That is why the ideas contained in the “Our Common Agenda” report that stress the need for the Council to be more representative and to strengthen the inclusiveness and legitimacy through consultation with other actors, including regional organizations, should be followed through.

10. That is why creative ideas on how to attain and sustain peace, on how to promote enhanced diplomacy and use of peaceful means rather than confrontation, on how to strengthen the UN's inherent convening power to bring parties to the negotiating table, with a reformed Council playing an important role, all these should be further elaborated in the proposed "New Agenda for Peace".

11. So indeed we need to rally to "instill new life in the discussions on the reform of the Security Council", in part to address the broader tasks of making the world a safer place. And let us not forget that, in view of the great importance of this issue and to help ensure sustainability of any solutions related to Council reform, the broadest based political acceptance possible, if not consensus, is absolutely essential.

Mr. President,

12. In light of these contexts, I wish to highlight the following three points.

13. First, "instilling new life in the discussions on the reform of the Security Council" should be guided not just by renewal of our efforts but also by adopting new perspectives. Among others, achieving "low hanging fruits" on enhancing the Council's working methods could serve as a springboard towards further reform of the Council.

14. Throughout this year, Member States have expressed on relevant occasions general agreement for the Council to:

- i. promote the roles of elected Council members, especially developing countries, to be entrusted with penholdership in drafting the Council's resolutions;
- ii. further engage Troop and Police Contributing Countries in planning and mandating field missions prior to deployment; and
- iii. enhance engagement and information sharing with regional organizations and non-UNSC members.

15. My delegation trusts that progress in reforming the Council's working methods will help increase the sense of co-ownership, efficiency and transparency, and could build momentum towards reaching agreement on structural reform.

16. Second, regional approaches, regional priorities, regional ownership. These are key towards achieving lasting peace on the ground, not just on paper in the meeting rooms. My delegation is fully convinced that the affected region knows best, when it comes to resolving situations affecting peace and stability in that particular region. The voices of the affected region must be heard.

17. Therefore, a reformed Council must be one that engages actively in close partnership with the affected region, including the relevant regional organizations, as it seeks to help that region address the particular challenge affecting peace and stability. Indeed, this multilateral-regional interface is indispensable to having a sustainable solution to the challenges within a region that have spillover effects to the rest of the world.

18. To help ensure this, it is thus important that the voices of various regions are better represented in the Council, so that they can be heard. Thailand is therefore of the view that any expansion of the Council must bring about broader geographical representation, cross-regional balance, and greater representation of developing countries. On the basis of this thinking, Thailand thus supports, for example, greater representation of African countries in the Council.

19. Third, the Council should strengthen its partnership with other bodies and partners within their respective mandates to ensure that enduring solutions to challenges of international peace and security are built on the tripod of peace, human security and sustainable development.

20. To this end, we believe that the Council's relations, cooperation and coordination with the General Assembly and the ECOSOC should be further strengthened. We are pleased to see greater engagement among the three bodies during the past years and encourage such engagement to be further regularized and deepened.

21. Similarly, the Peacebuilding Commission offers valuable contributions to the work of the Council. Its role as an advisory body, especially in discussing institution-building and promoting early development in transition and post-conflict settings, complements conflict prevention and preventing relapse into conflict. This will only benefit the Council. So we hope to see greater coordination between the Council and the PBC in this regard.

Mr. President,

22. In closing, we look forward to a fruitful IGN in this General Assembly session to commence in early 2023, where we hope that areas and elements of convergence will increase. Thailand reaffirms our commitment to continue to work constructively with all parties to galvanize the momentum for a reform towards a more effective, equitable and accountable Security Council. We look forward to working with the Co-Chairs and other Member States to achieve this shared objective.

23. Thank you, Mr. President.
