



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

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Statement

by

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Counsellor

**Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Thailand
to the United Nations**

**at the 44th Plenary Meeting of the 77th Session
of the United Nations General Assembly**

**Agenda Item 69: Strengthening of the coordination of
humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations,
including special economic assistance**

New York, 6 December 2022

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Mr. President,

1. Thailand aligns itself with the statement delivered by Brunei Darussalam on behalf of ASEAN.

2. At the outset, Thailand wishes to thank the Secretary-General for his reports and recommendations for better coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance. We believe that the coherence and synergies between the work of relevant UN agencies, in particular the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC), the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), are key to the effective delivery of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance to the people in times of need, while making the best use of our limited resources.

Mr. President,

3. Against the backdrop of on-going humanitarian situations around the world, other global challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic and natural disasters, have contributed to increase the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance to an unprecedented level. Member States, the UN, humanitarian and development organizations and other relevant stakeholders must therefore further strengthen efforts to prevent, prepare for, and address these challenges at the local, national and regional levels.

4. In this regard, Thailand would like to make the following 3 points:

5. First, we must continue to make efforts to ensure that humanitarian assistance reaches those in critical need in accordance with the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and independence and with the full respect for international humanitarian law, where they apply.

6. Thailand remains committed in doing our part. Even though a small country, Thailand has been far reaching in its effort to extend humanitarian assistance globally. We have been a modest but consistent supporter of the Central Emergency Respond Fund (CERF) since its inception. And over the past years, Thailand has also provided bilateral assistance to countries in the fight against the outbreak of COVID-19, countries affected by natural disasters, and countries facing other humanitarian challenges in our own region and beyond.

7. Second, it is evident from the COVID-19 pandemic that health services are vital components in humanitarian relief efforts. We must work to advance universal health coverage and ensure the continuum and provision of essential

health services and public health functions in emergencies, as called for in the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage (UHC) of 2019, and translate lessons into commitments in the upcoming High-level Meeting in 2023. In this relation, we must also increase coordination between the health and disaster risk management sectors, in line with the Bangkok Principles on the Implementation of the Health Aspects of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

8. Thailand is concerned on the notable increase in reports on attacks against humanitarian and health workers as presented in the SG's reports and joins others in the call to ensure the safety of medical personnel in carrying out their duties. We also reiterate the need to provide them with necessary protection and support, particularly on their health, including mental health and psychosocial needs.

9. Third, according to the SG's report, the world is expected to face 560 disasters per year by 2030, which is a projected increase of 40 per cent during the lifetime of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. And it is apparent from the 2021 statistics that developing countries bear the brunt of natural disasters in the world be it floods, droughts or hurricanes.

10. We must therefore strengthen implementation of the Sendai Framework to build capacities of countries and relevant actors to prepare for and respond to natural hazards, including by scaling up early warning and early action through the Early Warnings for All Initiative of the Secretary-General to ensure that every person on Earth is covered by early warning systems by 2027 and by localizing disaster preparedness and response to ensure that national and local actors are enabled to respond to community-level needs and priorities.

11. To this end, Thailand stands ready to constructively engage in the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework next year in May.

Mr. President,

12. Allow me to conclude by reiterating Thailand's commitment to working with the international community and the UN system to enhance the humanitarian coordination and efforts to save lives and alleviate suffering during and in the aftermath of emergencies, as well as to strive to building back better a more resilient and sustainable post-COVID world.

13. I thank you, Mr. President.
