



**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

Dr. Suriya Chindawongse

Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations

**before the Sixth Committee
of the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

Agenda item 84

The rule of law at the national and international levels

New York, 7 October 2022

As delivered

Mr. Chair,

1. Allow me to join others in congratulating you along with members of the Bureau on your election. Please be assured of Thailand's full support and cooperation towards a successful conclusion of the session.

2. Thailand aligns itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished representatives of **Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement** and **Cambodia on behalf of ASEAN**.

3. Thailand also wishes to **express our appreciation to the Secretary-General for his annual report** on strengthening and coordinating rule of law activities at the national and international levels, as well as the support provided to Member States in promoting the rule of law.

Mr. Chair,

4. The rule of law is at the bedrock of inter-State relations and of multilateralism. It is the foundation upon which equity, justice and sustainability can flourish. It is **indispensable to the peaceful co-existence and cooperation among States**. It promotes predictability which is essential also to economic progress and prosperity.

5. For these and other reasons, Thailand is convinced that **the promotion and respect for the rule of law, with people at the center**, will steer us towards the realization of a peaceful, inclusive and just society, where no one is left behind. In this light, allow me Mr. Chair to highlight the following seven points:

6. First, **Thailand reaffirms our commitment to the advancement of the rule of law**, both at the national and international levels, to establish conditions under which the three pillars of the United Nations – international peace and security, human rights and development, that is sustainable development – can be further strengthened.

7. Second, **Thailand supports UN efforts to promote the rule of law**, through capacity-building, technical assistance and dissemination of legal knowledge, including through the UN Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law. Indeed, if knowledge is power, then knowledge of the law, and the rule of law, is empowering.

8. Third, **Thailand recognizes the significant contribution of the International Law Commission (ILC) towards the promotion of the rule of law**, through its work on the progressive development of international law and its codification, and looks forward to exchanging views on the recent work of the ILC at the relevant, subsequent session.

9. Fourth, Thailand supports the promotion of the rule of law through equitable treaty-making and active engagement in international norm-setting and standard-making, including through becoming the 88th member of the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH) in 2021.

10. Thailand also recognizes **the important role of international instruments in addressing the level playing field between concerned parties**. In this regard, Thailand fully supports the development of a legally binding international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, that places equity at its heart, to ensure self-reliance of developing countries when faced with pandemics. Thailand believes that it is not only in our mutual benefit but also our shared responsibility, to further strengthen the global health architecture as well as global solidarity in responding to such crises.

11. Fifth, it is important to emphasize that **any pandemic, regardless of its unprecedented impacts, shall not weaken commitment to the rule of law**. In containing the spread of such pandemic, it is crucial to strike the right balance, and act in the best interests of the peoples, while upholding fundamental legal principles.

12. **Putting people front and centre is fundamental to any comprehensive response**. In this regard, Thailand has embraced the whole-of-society approach in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the involvement of over one

million community-based volunteers who have proven to be indispensable in our fight against COVID-19.

13. Sixth, Thailand wishes to reiterate the utmost importance of capacity-building, legal capacity-building, particularly for developing States. Thailand is honoured to organize, through the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA), **training courses with a view to enhancing capacities of participating States in conforming to relevant international obligations**, including in areas of healthcare.

14. Lastly, seventh, Thailand wishes to **make suggestions on possible sub-topics** for the debate under this agenda item at its next sessions. Given the importance of the people-centred rule of law in the realization of a peaceful, inclusive and just society. We suggest two topics, namely, **first women's empowerment, and second the rule of law and the whole-of-society approach**.

15. To conclude, Mr. Chair, from Thailand's participation at the Hague Conferences of 1899 and 1907 to Thailand's current engagement in treaty-making bodies and platforms of today, Thailand has always believed in the importance of the rule of law and in its great value in protecting the interests of States, especially small States, and in safeguarding the welfare of people. Thailand therefore will continue to extend its cooperation and support in promoting and advancing the rule of law.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.
