



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

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**Statement**

**by**

**His Excellency Dr. Suriya Chindawongse**

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

**at the United Nations Security Council Open Debate on  
Conflict and Food Security**

**New York, 19 May 2022**

Mr. President,

1. **Starvation and hunger have no place in today's world**, some seven decades after the UN Charter committed us to “better standards of life in larger freedom” for all. Humankind has the technological and financial means to help ensure better food security. But this has been difficult to achieve.

2. This is in part because we live in a time marked by compounded crises, with food insecurity being just one of them. Rising agricultural prices in tandem with rising energy costs, the challenges of climate change and their impact on the environment including water scarcity, and trade disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, geo-political tensions and conflict in various parts of the world: all these have put upward pressure on global food prices. This has impaired food security and threaten to put the SDGs in ICU. The most affected are low income, food-deficit countries and the most vulnerable groups, including women and girls.

3. As several delegations have referred to earlier, 1.7 billion people in 107 economies are severely exposed to one of the three triple crises, including rising food prices, as referred to by the UNSG. The WFP and FAO, meanwhile, have identified organized violence and conflict as the primary drivers of hunger in hunger hotspots and globally, with weather extremes including drought and floods being another.

4. Against this backdrop, Thailand believes that some actions could be considered as part of multi-stakeholder efforts to help ensure better food security. These actions are anchored on three ideas: **sustainability, supply chains and science/technology**.

5. First is **sustainability**: encouraging **sustainable agriculture and food production in order to generate sufficient food supplies for the long-term, regionally and globally**. As one of the world's leading food producers, Thailand pursues a food strategy based on Food Safety, Food Security and Sustainability of natural resources and agro-ecology. This is part of our **Bio-Circular-Green or BCG Economy Model** which seeks to promote sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth and development. And because sustainable development with food security is so critical to sustainable peace-building, our peacekeeping contingents provide training in **sustainable agriculture** to communities.

6. Second is **supply chains**: promoting **secure and resilient global and regional supply chains and distribution channels, especially for agricultural and food products**. An economic landscape conducive to such supply chains is

necessary. To promote world food security, relevant rules and regulations under multilateral trade fora need to be more supportive and facilitative towards international trade in food products. Meanwhile, in countries and regions affected by disasters and conflict, priority should be given to getting humanitarian supplies, including food, to the people in the affected areas. And as mentioned by some delegations, food should not be part of UN sanctions.

7. Third is **science and technology**: mobilizing **S&T to help increase supplies, improve food storage and minimize food waste**. To this end, leading Thai food companies, academic institutions and local farmers have been cooperating with international partners to develop alternative seafood and meats, including plant-based proteins which have high feed conversion efficiency and emit relatively few GHGs, and innovative storage capabilities. International cooperation in this area should be further advanced, as seen in the recently concluded ASEAN-US Special Summit in Washington, where partners committed to enhancing collaboration in **smart farming, both precision and climate-smart agriculture and food science**, amongst others.

8. To conclude: **enhanced and practical regional and multilateral cooperation backed by strong political will is vital**. That is why this Security Council meeting is so timely and we commend the U.S. announcement this morning of increases in food assistance. That is why Thailand looks forward to the adoption of the UNGA resolution to address global food insecurity in the near future. And that is why as host economy of APEC 2022, Thailand is committed to achieving **APEC's goal of sufficient, safe, nutritious, accessible and affordable food for all**, through the APEC Food Security Roadmap, and to developing an Implementation Plan in this regard.

9. Thank you, Mr. President.

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