



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

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Statement

by

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to the United Nations**

**at the United Nations Security Council Open Debate on
New Orientation for Reformed Multilateralism**

New York, 14 December 2022

Mr. President,

1. I wish to take this opportunity to thank Your Excellency for organizing this important open debate on “New Orientation for Reformed Multilateralism”, an issue that will continue to have important ramifications for the United Nations and its Member States, now and in the future. We wish to commend India for its leadership as President of the Security Council during this month and for its fruitful contributions to the Council’s work during the past two years.

2. Our appreciation goes to the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly for sharing their views and important insights on how to further strengthen multilateralism in these trying times. Thailand aligns itself with the ASEAN statement to be made by the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam, and I wish to make the following statement in my national capacity.

3. The past has shown, time and time again, that at critical points in human history, when humanity is confronted with existential crises and challenges, these are ultimately addressed, through either unfortunately large-scale conflict with all its destructive force and consequences, or, through, hopefully, unprecedented international cooperation and joint endeavors, with all its implications for continued progress. The United Nations and indeed the entire multilateral system was established to help ensure that humanity would choose the latter rather than the former as it seeks to address and ultimately overcome such crises and challenges.

4. So it is through the coming together of nations, large and small, in a collective effort, based on the principles that underpin multilateralism, on the architecture provided by the United Nations, and on the rules that govern peaceful inter-State relations. It is this coming together to which humanity has pinned its hopes as the best way to find sustainable and effective solutions to the crises and challenges of our times.

5. From the pandemic to poverty, from armed conflict to global tensions, from planetary crises to food and energy crises, the multilateral system anchored on the United Nations and on international law has no small role to play in helping find the best possible path forward for humanity as a whole, while serving to guarantee that all voices are heard and that the interests of the smallest States and the smallest stakeholders are taken into account.

6. But there has been a crisis in trust and confidence in whether the UN and indeed the entire multilateral system can deliver when it matters most. The perfect storm scenario that we have all witnessed in the past twelve months has put the UN and the multilateral system to its ultimate test.

7. Now the verdict is still out. But rather than to passively wait for such verdict, it is far better for us to proactively take steps now to help ensure that the UN and the multilateral system will continue to find relevance, today and in years to come. And that is why today's meeting assumes such great significance.

8. To this end, there are three points that we should seriously consider as we seek to pursue reformed multilateralism and develop a more effective UN to better confront the crises and challenges of our times.

9. First, the United Nations must put its full attention to its core missions, and that ultimately, this is how to use peaceful means, peaceful means, to solve the myriad crises and challenges that test humanity's resolve. The UN is all about diplomacy.

10. And that is where the UN should refocus its efforts:

to put peaceful means at the front and centre of multilateral efforts: at addressing problems including conflict, whether through diplomacy, dialogue, negotiation, or other means, rather than confrontation;

to build bridges of understanding amongst dissenting and even conflicting parties, against the backdrop of trends of polarization and fragmentation in the international community;

to become an even stronger and more respected platform for nations to come together peacefully to find shared and mutually beneficial, sustainable solutions, and in so doing, exercise the UN's inherent strength in its convening power to the fullest.

11. This is what the United Nations is all about. This is what multilateralism is all about. And this is where reformed multilateralism should be heading. This should be one of the critical elements in the ongoing discussions for a New Agenda for Peace and other ideas under "Our Common Agenda".

12. Second, reformed multilateralism and a reformed UN must be able to address effectively and in an integrated and holistic manner the holy trinity of key strategic goals, namely, maintaining international peace, security and stability, promoting sustainable development and growth, and preventing violation, abuse and disregard of universal human rights while reinforcing human security for all.

13. To achieve this trinity, it is absolutely essential that the UN works across organizations and silos, linking up the work of the Security Council and the ECOSOC, the General Assembly and the Peacebuilding Commission, and with all Specialized Agencies and other bodies within the UN system. Peace, security and stability will not be sustainable if there is poverty and social discord, and vice versa. Without the timely attainment of the SDGs, it is not practicable to talk about having peace, security and stability that is sustainable.

14. Added to this is the need to integrate more effectively the ideas of key organizations and institutions outside the UN system, especially the International Financial Institutions and the G-20, for example, as well as the initiatives of key stakeholders including civil society organizations, and the inputs and participation of women and youth. All these ideas should be incorporated into ongoing discussions of a more networked UN system and of greater early warning capabilities and strategic foresight for the UN, including within the context of the Summit of the Future in 2024.

15. Third and finally, reformed multilateralism and the UN must increasingly strengthen the all-important global-regional interface and partnership, whether in dealing with key global challenges that have specific regional consequences, such as global agreements related to climate finance and financing for development, or in dealing with regional problems that may have spillover effects in the global arena. Because the voices of the region -- its peoples, its States, and its organizations, matter.

16. That is why ASEAN is speaking today and continues to promote close partnership with the UN. And that is why we hope that a more robust engagement between the UN and regional organizations should be realized, so that regional and local wisdom could be accessed and utilized as part of the body of best practices that could be useful for other regions or even the international community as a whole.

17. It is our hope that as the UN engages in multiple tracks of international conferences in the next few years, from Universal Health Coverage to sustainable development, from climate change to disaster relief, the expertise of regional organizations and institutions be made full use of. Such global-regional interface will make solutions more sustainable and enjoy wider support, especially at the regional level.

18. In conclusion, an effective multilateral system with the UN at its core is needed, now more than ever, and deserves our support, now more than ever. As Thailand celebrates its 76th anniversary of its UN membership and more than a century of engagement in multilateral diplomacy, from the Universal Postal Union of the nineteenth century to the Hague Conferences of the twentieth, our long-standing commitment and support to multilateralism remains as strong, then as now.

19. Because multilateralism and its most recent reincarnation in the form of the UN system remains an important guarantor of the rights of small States and an important framework for all States to have the requisite diplomatic space to peacefully advance their constructive interests in a mutually beneficial manner. And is this not in the interests of humanity as a whole?

20. Thank you.
