

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

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**Explanation of Vote before the Vote  
by  
His Excellency Dr. Suriya Chindawongse  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand  
to the United Nations**

**before the 11<sup>th</sup> Emergency Special Session  
of the United Nations General Assembly**

**New York, 23 February 2023**

***Check against delivery***

Mr. President,

1. Thailand reiterates our unequivocal adherence to the UN Charter, both in letter and spirit, as well as to international law as the nonarbitrary point of reference for standards of conduct of nations.

2. Thailand upholds the people's rights to live in safety with their basic well-being as universal and nonnegotiable. Humanitarian consideration must not be politicized and discriminatory.

3. We urge the United Nations to dispense its best and most earnest effort in **preventive diplomacy** to safeguard these basic human rights around the world, and not to become a part of the morality play that turns very complex situations into simple binaries of good and evil, followed by finger pointing and condemnations.

4. Utmost efforts should be carried out to create conducive environments for engagement and dialogues to settle disputes once they erupt, rather than adding fuel to the fire. The Hippocratic Oath should apply in all the UN endeavors—"First do no harm."

5. On the one-year anniversary of war in Ukraine, we urge all members of this prestigious body to do the right thing by the world at large, and by the 8 billion people who are simply bystanders but are bearing the brunt of the war in very many different ways. For the peace settlement process to start, we must try to understand **the root causes of the conflict** in an objective

and non-myopic manner, devoid of the power and morality play elements. The world is vast and rich enough for countries with diverse ideologies and political form of government to co-exist peacefully, if we learn to respect the differences and heed our respective existential.

6. More weapons escalate fighting, more fighting worsens human suffering, more sanctions intensify human pain and have never led to regime change, condemnations bear no positive weight on altering behavior or conducts.

7. Thailand calls on all parties to step up the diplomatic effort to engage in dialogues to achieve a peaceful negotiated settlement as **an exit to the Ukraine conflict**. The war in Ukraine represents an unprecedented and most dangerous challenge that threatens the geopolitical, financial, economic, security, and collective balance of the world at large.

8. It was said diplomacy is the continuation of war by other means. Wars cannot be settled by deployment of more lethal weapons, not unless total destruction and human casualties are the only objectives and the only option available. Wars can only be settled by engagements and dialogues, by pragmatism, not ideology, and not the winner-take-all mindset. As in Isaiah 1:18, it is **now time for all nations to come and “reason together.”**

Thank you.

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