

**Remarks**  
**by**  
**H.E. Dr. Suriya Chindawongse,**  
**Ambassador and Permanent Representative**  
**of Thailand to the United Nations**  
**on the Occasion of the National Day of the Kingdom of Thailand,**  
**the Birthday Anniversary of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej The Great**  
**and Thailand's Father's Day**  
**Wednesday, 6 December 2023**

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President of the United Nations General Assembly,  
Madam Deputy Secretary-General,  
Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. It is our honour to have all of you joining us and the Thai people around the world to celebrate the Kingdom of Thailand's National Day on the fifth of December.

2. This day also marks Thailand's Father's Day, and the Birthday Anniversary of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej The Great, who, during his 70 years of reign, devoted his life to the promotion of sustainable development and the betterment of people's livelihoods, in Thailand and beyond.

3. His Majesty's enduring legacy continues to guide our work to this day. His Majesty understood the importance of sustainable development as a key driver for the well-being of all people.

4. At its core, His Majesty's "Sufficiency Economy Philosophy" puts people at the center of development. His achievements have been recognized by the international community as His Majesty was awarded the First United Nations Human Development Lifetime Achievement Award in 2006.

5. Today, here at the UN and elsewhere, we are in a race against time: to rescue the SDGs, to build a sustainable future for all, and to ensure that our multilateralism anchored on our United Nations can deliver. To succeed, we must place our attention at the people.

6. In so doing, Thailand embraces the people-centered approach, in striving to end poverty, to protect those who are vulnerable, to empower everyone to fulfill their potential with dignity and equality.

7. Whether by promoting human security, advancing Universal Health Coverage or supporting humanitarian assistance, our shared aim is to make people's lives better.

8. Why? Because people matter most.

9. To this end, the Thai Government actively promotes sustainable development and sustained economic growth to generate greater income, uplift more and more people out of poverty and create greater opportunities for people, within the ASEAN Community and the global community.

10. And that is why we must also protect our planet. Thailand's people-centered approach is pursued in tandem with a planet-centric approach: to better protect the environment and to address the critical challenge of climate change. Sustainability-linked bonds and green finance mechanism are just some of the key instruments that the Thai Government is promoting to this end, as announced by my Prime Minister at the UN this past September.

Excellencies,

11. And what could be more pertinent in underscoring the importance of the people-centred approach than the 75th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights this year.

12. Thailand is fully committed to human rights. This issue is placed at the core of the current Government's policy. We see human rights as a global agenda and wish to contribute to its advancement.

13. Hence, we present our candidature to the Human Rights Council for the term 2025 – 2027, as ASEAN Candidate. We hope to play a constructive role in global efforts to further promote and protect human rights.

14. We indeed count on your valuable support at the elections next October.

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

15. May I now invite everyone to join me in a toast: For the good health and happiness of His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajiraklaochaoyuhua.

16. To His Majesty the King! *(Toast, followed by the Royal Anthem)*

17. Thank you.

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