



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

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Statement

by

**H.E. Dr. Suriya Chindawongse,
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of Thailand to the United Nations,**

**before the 47th plenary meeting
of the 10th Emergency Special Session
of the United Nations General Assembly**

20 December 2023

New York

As delivered

Mr. President,

1. Thailand welcomes the convening of this Tenth Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly, given its serious concern over the urgent humanitarian situation in the Middle East and the adoption of the resolution on “Protection of Civilians and Upholding Legal and Humanitarian Obligations” last week, which we co-sponsored.

2. Despite the Secretary-General’s efforts in invoking Article 99 of the UN Charter, we deeply regret that the Security Council was unable to take the necessary steps to follow up on the necessary measures to implement the UNSC’s Resolution 2712 (2023), end the conflict, and maintain peace and security in the Middle East. In the immediate future, we hope that the Security Council will be able to come together and take effective decisions to address urgently the deteriorating humanitarian situation.

3. We are saddened that thousands of innocent civilians have been killed and injured, including many Thai nationals. We condemn in the strongest terms all forms of violence and attacks, wherever it takes place, against innocent civilians regardless of their nationalities.

4. Thailand urges all sides to respect and fulfill their obligations under international humanitarian law and to ensure the safety and dignity of civilians in conflict situations. The protection of innocent lives and civilians must be a priority at all times.

5. Thailand regrets that the temporary ceasefire in Gaza only lasted for seven days. We encourage all sides to work toward the resumption of the ceasefire as we hope to see the extension and eventual permanent ceasefire.

6. Thailand welcomes the release of some civilian hostages, including Thai nationals, during the implementation of the temporary ceasefire. We deeply appreciate the diplomatic efforts of all parties involved in facilitating their release. We continue to appeal for the immediate and unconditional release of all remaining hostages and we also hope that, pending their release, these hostages would continue to be afforded the proper treatment and care.

7. We welcome the continued delivery of humanitarian assistance to Gaza, despite the end of the ceasefire. However, we are deeply concerned over the supply shortages and the inability of the United Nations humanitarian agencies and international parties to access those in need throughout Gaza due to the growing

insecurity. As each day of conflict goes by, the humanitarian situation has only worsened, with dire consequences for the civilian population, especially women and children. So it is critical that the fighting ceases in order for much needed humanitarian assistance to safely and effectively reach all affected people.

8. Thailand commends the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) for its instrumental role and untiring efforts, and extends our deepest condolences to those personnel who have lost their lives in fulfilling their duties. We appeal to all sides to continue their support to UNRWA in order for the Agency to carry out its mandate to distribute humanitarian assistance, operate health centers and provide shelter to the people in Gaza.

9. We also call for the protection of UN staff, as well as UN premises, hospitals and public buildings.

10. As a co-sponsor, Thailand supports the resolution adopted last week, which calls for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire, the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages, as well as demanding that all parties comply with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law. We hope for the immediate implementation of this resolution in order to save lives.

11. Lastly, Thailand reaffirms our support for genuine dialogue with a view to finding a mutually agreed peaceful solution to the issue, in accordance with the two-State solution, whereby the states of Israel and Palestine live side-by-side in peace and security, within secure and recognized borders, consistent with relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.

12. Thank you, Mr. President.

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