



**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
Peace and security in Africa: the impact of development policies
in the implementation of the Silencing the Guns initiative**

New York, 30 March 2023

Mr. President,

1. First of all, we commend Mozambique, as Presidency of the Security Council, for organizing this timely Open Debate on this important issue. The “Silencing the Guns Initiative” is just one important example of the achievements of the African Union, which remains a leading example of a regional organization that has successfully promoted regional approaches to addressing the peace, security and other challenges within the continent.

2. In this connection, Thailand wishes to congratulate the African Union which will be celebrating its 60th anniversary this coming May.

3. This initiative is reflective of an important, common sense but often understated axiom: and that is for matters related to Africa, it is Africa that knows best on how to address them.

4. And flowing from this is the bigger picture -- and that is the firm belief that each region, with its unique historical and cultural contexts, is best placed and best informed on how to best address the challenges of that particular region. For it has long been Thailand’s view that regional ownership is the key to generating a long-term, sustainable solution to regional problems.

5. Having said that, one must also underscore that the international community also has a role, a supportive role. And that is to provide the necessary advice, when sought, and the necessary support, when so requested, by the affected region. And, if mutually agreed to by all sides concerned, it is often partnerships, involving States of the region and regional organizations on the one hand, and States outside the region and international organizations like the UN on the other, that help lay the foundation of and generate momentum for sustainable solutions.

6. So it is within this context that Thailand wishes to make the following four points on the theme: “Peace and security in Africa: the impact of development policies on the implementation of the Silencing the Guns Initiative”.

7. First, Thailand welcomes the Silencing the Guns by 2030 Initiative and the African Union Master Roadmap of Practical Steps on this matter, both of which were welcomed by the Security Council in its resolution 2457 (2019). We support the fact that this initiative is African-owned and African driven, and pursues a comprehensive approach in seeking to achieve durable peace and security in Africa, for Africans.

8. Second, Thailand believes that a good understanding of the nexus of peace, sustainable development and human security is important in overcoming challenges in any region including in Africa.

9. From having effective political institutions to promoting sustainable development, from having good governance to strengthening resilience and unity in societies, from promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms to ensuring respect for diversity and tolerance. All these factors contribute to engendering conditions that are conducive to sustainable peace and security. Because without progress in the fight against hunger, poverty and disease, there is less chance for enduring peace and for the guns to be silent.

10. Third, addressing the needs of the people through people empowerment -- economic, social and political -- is key to having sustainable solutions. Through education and skills development, through better access to financing and health care, through enhanced participation in decision-making at the local, sub-regional and national levels. Empowerment of people makes it more likely for the intertwined processes of peace, sustainable development and human security to be enduring, whether at the community level or national level.

11. It is for this reason that Thailand, either through the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) or through its peacekeepers in UN missions such as in South Sudan, integrates people-centred technical cooperation and capacity-building in its programmes with African countries. And these programmes are always driven by the needs of the local communities, such as in the areas of agriculture, water and land management, for example, because it is what they want, not what we want, as it should be.

12. Fourth and lastly, a strong regional-multilateral interface, complementing national efforts at addressing peace and security challenges, will be helpful. The AU-UN partnership has proven to be a successful example. As is international cooperation in support of NEPAD and international partnerships in support of sub-regional organizations in Africa.

13. What could be done more at the UN is to enhance the coordination between key bodies such as the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission, the ECOSOC and the General Assembly, for example, and with other organizations such as International Financial Institutions (IFIs) when needed.

14. To conclude: Thailand believes that international support for the Silencing the Guns initiative and partnerships with the African Union and various initiatives from Africa should be continued and indeed reinforced in order to help secure sustainable solutions to peace, security and other challenges within Africa.

15. Thank you, Mr. President.
