



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

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Statement

by

His Excellency Dr. Suriya Chindawongse

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand

to the United Nations

at the United Nations Security Council Open Debate on

Advancing Public-Private Humanitarian Partnership

New York, 14 September 2023

Mr. President,

1. The Global Humanitarian Overview in July informs us that humanitarian funding requirements in 2023 have surpassed \$55 billion to support almost 250 million people affected by conflict, climate change, disease outbreaks, and other crises. Regrettably, our efforts up until July this year have fulfilled only 25 per cent of such needs.

2. This is, therefore, an urgent call for all to take greater part in supporting the most fundamental task of saving lives. We support, in particular, the role of the private sector -- through financial support, technology, innovation, and even the delivery of humanitarian assistance itself.

3. So we thank you, Mr. President, for organizing and chairing this important meeting on this critical topic. And we commend the briefers this morning, the private sector, and all stakeholders, for their commitment and contributions to peace.

Mr. President,

4. Three points, if I may.

5. First, public-private partnership should share the same commitment in upholding international humanitarian law and humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence. This is in accordance with the OCHA-WEF Guiding Principles for Public-Private Collaboration for Humanitarian Action.

6. Departure from these principles could fuel misunderstanding, even suspicion, and complicate conflict resolution, especially as such assistance is often delivered across “fault lines” of conflict.

7. At the same time, all parties to the conflict must refrain from politicising humanitarian efforts. Instead, they should help ensure safe and unhindered access to such efforts. Helping people in difficult and even life-threatening conditions and situations must take precedence over political interests.

8. Second, humanitarian partnership should encompass public, private and people elements. Our people must be at the front and center of our efforts, complemented by a whole-of-society approach to ensure that our assistance responds to the people’s needs in a timely manner.

9. Take disaster management, for example. Expertise and know-how of the private sector can play a key part in strengthening emergency preparedness and humanitarian response. The power of businesses' technological advancement, including satellite, drone and AI technologies, could be leveraged towards greater disaster prevention and better delivery of humanitarian assistance. The presence of private sector operating in the area could offer not just a possible funding base, but also logistical support and engagement with the locals.

10. Thailand recognises the need for this whole-of-society approach. In July this year, the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation held the first ever national assembly on disaster management as a platform for stakeholders, public and private, to exchange views and experiences in order to co-design national disaster management policies.

11. Third and lastly, the role of private sector could contribute to peace efforts across the entire continuum. As public-private partnership in humanitarian assistance can help alleviate suffering of people in the immediate term, private investment in peacebuilding and private source of financing for development can help pave the way for sustaining peace in the longer-term.

12. We need to mobilise collective support to alleviate hardship, build institutions and infrastructure for sustainable growth, promote resilience in post-conflict rebuilding, and thereby prevent compounding crises from contributing to cycles of violence.

13. Towards this end, public-private partnership, as well as the roles of other stakeholders, would be most beneficial in achieving adequate, predictable and sustained financing. Such a partnership, when extended to peacebuilding and sustainable development, must be in line with national priorities and support inclusive, peace-positive endeavours.

Mr. President,

14. In closing, we know that the 2030 Agenda calls for all stakeholders to partner up in achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and explicitly identified partnerships as one of the Goals. The achievement of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs require all hands to be on deck. In a similar logic, multi-stakeholder partnerships are needed for effective humanitarian actions. Let us join hands, public, private and people, to turbo-charge efforts at attaining these goals.

15. Thank you, Mr. President.
