



**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**

**Peace through dialogue:**

**the contribution of regional, subregional and bilateral arrangements to**

**the prevention and peaceful resolution of disputes**

**New York, 20 October 2023**

Mr. President,

1. As Thailand takes the floor in the Security Council for the first time this month, I wish to begin by congratulating Brazil for assuming the Presidency of the Council for the month of October, and by thanking Albania for their Presidency last month.

2. As we look to reinvigorate the United Nations, through the Secretary-General's "Our Common Agenda", a New Agenda for Peace and the Summit of the Future, and against the backdrop of conflicts and confrontation in various regions, my delegation welcomes this important open debate to discuss how regional, subregional and bilateral arrangements can further contribute to peace and security as part of our efforts to strengthen multilateralism.

3. The UN Charter envisages such roles for regional arrangements.

4. Look at Chapter VI and Chapter VIII.

5. So how do we take these roles forward? Allow me to make three points.

6. First and foremost, the fundamental cornerstone of peace, security and stability in any region and indeed in the global system, is peaceful and mutually beneficial bilateral relations, especially amongst neighbours.

7. It is often said that good fences make good neighbours. But it is peaceful and friendly relations, amongst States, peoples and stakeholders, that generate mutual benefit, trust and stability. This is what makes good neighbours in the long-term.

8. So the primary focus of Thai diplomacy has always been the promotion of friendly relations with all States, and especially our neighbours, being "friends to all, enemies to none."

9. Beyond our region, it is our sincere hope that friendly neighbourly relations will continue to be nurtured where they are already existing, and indeed cultivated where they may be lacking.

10. Second, the voices, the views and the vision of the region matter.

11. The countries of the region know very well the causes of their common challenges and the appropriate solutions to them. Their wisdom should be heeded.

12. The added value of regional organizations cannot be underestimated. Whether the African Union, CARICOM or ASEAN. Their experience should be taken into account.

13. Let me touch briefly on ASEAN.

14. Forged during the time of the Cold War and conflict in Southeast Asia, ASEAN was born in Bangkok and has become a foundation for peace, stability and progress.

15. ASEAN is based on shared norms and values, anchored on the ASEAN Charter and the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, amongst others.

16. At the same time, ASEAN is driven by pragmatic and shared interests.

17. We believe in a comprehensive approach to security, where economic and social progress are just as vital as political stability to the well-being of our peoples. Hence the three pillars of our ASEAN Community.

18. And we respect our diversity as we build consensus.

19. All these have contributed to peace, security and stability in Southeast Asia.

20. We therefore respect and welcome any region charting its own path to achieving, through peaceful means, regional peace, security and stability.

21. And we see great value in closer engagement between regional organizations; not only to generate mutual benefit but also to contribute to global stability and prosperity. The ASEAN-GCC Summit in Saudi Arabia is one significant example.

22. Third and lastly, a strong multilateral-regional interface, anchored on close partnerships between the UN and regional organizations, can make important contributions to international peace, security and stability.

23. We welcome the strong ASEAN-UN Comprehensive Partnership, as we welcome closer partnerships between the UN and other regional organizations.

24. But more needs to be done.

25. The United Nations, especially the Security Council, should reinforce regional-driven processes through engaging affected countries and regions, as well as other relevant stakeholders, including host country and troops- and police-contributing countries (T/PCCs), for example.

26. We welcome the High Level Advisory Board for Effective Multilateralism's recommendations on more effective and multi-pillared cooperation between the UN and regional bodies, although not necessarily within a strict collective security framework and mindset.

27. And while we had hoped for more elaborations on the role of regional organizations in the UNSG's New Agenda for Peace, we look forward to developing ideas within the UN on how to bring together global and regional actors to design new models for diplomatic engagement that can address the interests of all actors and deliver mutually beneficial outcomes.

Mr. President,

28. To conclude, promoting international peace, security and stability requires an all out effort. We have no choice. Regional, sub-regional and bilateral arrangements can make a difference. Let us embrace their ideas and contributions.

29. Thank you, Mr. President.

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