



**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
the Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question**

New York, 24 October 2023

Mr. President,

1. I thank Brazil for organising this important Open Debate and all briefers for their information. We have listened very carefully to the debate today.

2. Thailand is deeply concerned over the escalation of hostilities and violence in the Middle East caused by the unprecedented developments in Israel and Gaza. We hope that the Security Council will continue its efforts to take action to addressing this urgent situation, which has had great humanitarian consequences, and towards achieving peace in the Middle East. In the meantime, we look forward to further consideration and action on this issue at the resumed Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly this week.

3. The heightened hostilities and the scale and scope of violence have claimed thousands of innocent lives, with many more injured and displaced. These include children, women, the elderly and the sick. The massive and escalating use of force have destroyed their livelihoods and communities.

4. Because of the detrimental impact on civilians, we oppose the withholding of access to basic necessities, such as water, food, electricity, and fuel as weapons of war. We also oppose the targeting of critical civilian infrastructure.

5. Thailand offers our deepest condolences to everyone who lost their lives and their bereaved families. Our deepest sympathies are extended to all those who are suffering.

6. We are also victims. Thai citizens have been killed and injured. We are deeply concerned for the safety of Thai nationals as well as those captured and held hostage. We strongly appeal for their immediate release and safe return.

7. Thailand condemns in the strongest terms all forms of violence and attacks on civilians in conflict situations, including capturing and taking them hostage.

8. Thailand thus 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.

9. As the situation escalates, the most urgent concern is for all civilians who have been affected. Unimpeded access to humanitarian assistance must be ensured.

10. We appeal to the international community to continue to mobilise humanitarian assistance to civilians in Gaza to ensure that they have access to basic necessities, including safe and clean water, food and medical care.

11. Thailand joins others in the call for all sides to take immediate steps to prevent the escalation of violence and implement an immediate ceasefire.

12. We appeal all sides to seek all avenues to resolve the current situation and work towards a long-term peace through diplomacy.

13. We also urge the Security Council to do its utmost to restore peace and security in the region in accordance with the Purposes and Principles of the UN Charter.

14. Thailand will continue to support the UN and the international community in any way we can to de-escalate the situation.

15. We reaffirm 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, by which the states of Israel and Palestine live side-by-side in peace and security, within secure and recognised borders, consistent with relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.

16. Thank you, Mr. President.
