



**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

Maintenance of international peace and security:

Effective multilateralism through the Defense of the Principles of the UN Charter

New York, 24 April 2023

Mr. President,

1. Multilateralism, anchored on the United Nations Charter and international law, is the first resort of many States, and at times, the last safeguard for many States.

2. Multilateralism enables States to do things better: to better pursue peaceful relations based on mutual interests, to better generate cooperation in addressing global issues, to better mobilize international assistance and relief when needed, and to better address outstanding problems and disputes through peaceful means.

3. For these reasons, promoting effective multilateralism is our common priority and so I wish to express appreciation to you, Mr. President, for organizing this important open debate so that the wider UN membership can voice its views on this issue. We also commend the Russian Federation for its achievements during its Presidency of the Council.

4. Thailand aligns itself with the statement to be delivered by Azerbaijan on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, and wishes to add the following four points.

Mr. President,

5. **First, a renewed commitment to multilateralism requires a renewed commitment to the principles in the UN Charter and to international law.**

6. From sovereign equality to the peaceful settlement of disputes, from non-use of force to respect for territorial integrity and the political independence of States, from non-intervention to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

7. Renewing these commitments requires us to ensure that these principles are applied universally, not selectively, in order to strengthen respect for these principles by all.

8. **Second, the critical means for ensuring effective multilateralism is the strengthening of peaceful means.**

9. Effective multilateralism is principally about effective diplomacy, creative facilitation, impartial mediation and rules-based arbitration, amongst others.

10. We should seek ways to strengthen the instruments advancing peaceful means within the UN system. We should nurture a culture of peace amongst nations and civilizations. And we should strengthen the UN's convening power to build bridges amongst disputing parties and foster trust and confidence amongst States.

11. Because polarization and confrontation benefit no one.

12. As regards UN institutions, the Security Council needs urgent reform for greater efficiency, transparency, and equitable representation. The General Assembly needs to be revitalized to address the contemporary agenda. The Peacebuilding Commission needs to be utilized more effectively. And these organs and other multilateral bodies need to work in greater synchronization.

13. **Third, the interconnectivity between peace, sustainable development and human security, means that we must adopt complementary and multi-dimensional approaches to addressing global challenges.**

14. The present conflicts around the world underscore the magnitude of their impact on human security and sustainable development: from the humanitarian, food and energy crises, to consequences on States' ability to address global challenges such as climate change and the pandemic.

15. Effective multilateralism thus requires addressing challenges to peace, sustainable development and human security in an integrated manner. Prevention of conflict, for example, is best achieved by encouraging sustainable development and human security, allowing them to take root, through local, national, regional, and international cooperation.

16. We should thus not lose sight of the importance of attaining the SDG's and the 2030 Agenda, as an investment for peace and human security. We should therefore work towards a successful SDG Summit in September this year to turbo-charge the rescue efforts of the SDGs and bring us back on track to ensuring that no one is left behind.

17. And fourth and lastly, **a more effective multilateralism would benefit from a stronger global-regional interface involving closer coordination between the UN and regional organizations.**

18. The voices of the region matter. As are the contributions and initiatives of regional and sub-regional organizations.

19. Thailand looks forward to the UN continuing to strengthen its partnerships with regional and sub-regional organizations, especially as it seeks to strengthen multilateralism through the implementation of the various proposals under the "Our Common Agenda".

20. Coming from Southeast Asia, Thailand places great importance on the continued enhancement of the ASEAN-UN comprehensive partnership and hopes that the views of our region on matters affecting our region will always be heeded.

21. In closing, Thailand believes that a more effective multilateralism should and can be achieved, and this should be a major priority as we prepare for a Summit of the Future in 2024, bearing in mind that, without sustainable development, there is no future.

22. Thank you, Mr. President.
