



**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
Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace:
Futureproofing Trust for Sustaining Peace**

New York, 3 May 2023

Mr. President,

1. We thank the Russian Federation for presiding over the Council last month and congratulate Switzerland for assuming the Council Presidency this month. Having been personally present here in 2002 when Switzerland joined the United Nations (UN) as its 190th Member, it is gratifying to witness this historic occasion.

2. I wish to commend Your Excellency Federal Councillor Ignazio Cassis for Chairing this important and timely Open Debate on “Futureproofing Trust for Sustaining Peace”, against a backdrop of growing conflict across the globe. And we thank the briefers for their insights.

Mr. President,

3. One may recall a report by the World Bank and the UN in 2018 called “Pathways for Peace” which underscores the high costs of conflict and the importance of prevention.

4. Here are some findings: countries experiencing violent conflict are estimated to experience a 2-8.4 percent loss in annual GDP growth; conflict prevention, on the other hand, is expected to generate costs savings of between 5-70 billion US dollars.

5. It is clear to all: **there must be stronger and more sustained investment for peace**. Let us not forget that the establishment of the United Nations itself was an investment for peace.

6. So finding effective ways to sustain peace, by investing in peace, should remain one of the UN’s core priorities.

7. The concept note for this meeting rightly refers to addressing “risk multipliers”. The corollary is also true: **we need to promote “peace multipliers”**.

So Mr. President,

8. I will focus on **peace multipliers of the 3Cs: conditions, catalysts and culture of peace**.

9. First, on cultivating conditions for sustainable peace.

10. We need a people-centred approach -- ensuring that people’s interests and rights remain front and centre.

11. That is why **any effort to sustain peace must include promoting sustainable development.**
12. That is why locally driven development projects must go hand in hand with peace initiatives, as practiced by Thai peacekeepers under the UN in South Sudan.
13. And that is why the rescuing of the SDGs is the urgent priority, to be operationalized through a successful SDG Summit this September.
14. Equally important is the **cultivation of human security and the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.** When people's basic needs and dignity are respected, the conditions are more favourable for peaceful societies to endure.
15. With these conditions, there will be enhanced trust and confidence. This helps sustainable peace.
16. Second, on developing catalysts to sustain peace.
17. **Inclusivity and participation are important catalysts.**
18. At the national level, all stakeholders, from women and girls to people with disabilities to vulnerable groups, should not only be consulted but also actively engaged in sustaining peace as well as in policy development.
19. That is why Thailand fully supports the Women, Peace and Security agenda, and sees the importance of women in not only peace processes but also in development processes.
20. Another critical catalyst is **active engagement by regional actors especially regional organizations.**
21. Regional contexts matter. Regional wisdom counts.
22. That is why we commend the Secretary-General's ideas on supporting regional actors in sustaining peace, as suggested in "Our Common Agenda" (OCA).
23. And that is why we find of interest the suggestions of the UNSG's High Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism on promoting a framework of cooperation between the UN and regional organizations on human security and sustainable development.

24. This brings me to one of the most important catalysts of all and that is **strengthening the instruments for peaceful means, especially diplomacy, here at the UN, not only in this room but also throughout this building.**

25. The UN's role as a trusted, impartial platform with strong convening power, to bring parties in discord together to resolve peacefully their shared problems, should be enhanced.

26. From reinforcing the role of the Secretary-General, to building synergies between various actors in the UN system, to developing better strategic foresight here at the UN, as suggested in the OCA.

27. But this can only happen if there is trust and confidence here at the UN. So perhaps this should be our priority as well, in tandem with building trust and confidence in areas around the globe where sustainable peace is threatened.

28. As Mr. President said earlier this morning, "Let us rebuild the bridges that united us". Let us indeed.

29. Third and lastly, on promoting a culture of peace.

30. If we all practice a **Culture of Peace, anchored on tolerance and respect for diversity and an abiding respect for international law, norms of behavior and peaceful means in addressing problems**, then sustainable peace everywhere has a better chance.

31. To conclude, reinforcing "peace multipliers" will help strengthen trust and confidence and sustain peace.

32. All these endeavours **contribute to preventive diplomacy, which remains an important ingredient in our investment in sustainable peace** -- an investment that we not only have to protect but also to expand. And we hope that this investment will be an important part of a New Agenda for Peace anchored on the UN Charter.

33. Thank you Mr. President.
