



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

**136 EAST 39th STREET · NEW YORK, NY 10016
TEL (212) 754-2230 • FAX (212) 688-3029**

Statement

by

His Excellency Mr. Vathayudh Vichankaiyakij

**Chargé d'Affaires, a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Thailand
to the United Nations**

at the United Nations Security Council Open Debate on

Maintenance of international peace and security:

“Promote sustaining peace through common development”

New York, 20 November 2023

(Check against delivery)

Mr. President,

1. At the outset, I wish to congratulate China as it continues its Presidency of the Security Council this month and to express appreciation for convening today's important Open Debate on "Promote sustaining peace through common development."

2. I wish to also thank Brazil for the successful Presidency in October. And we appreciate the Secretary-General and all the briefers for sharing their insights in this meeting.

3. Thailand has been resolute that peace will be most sustaining if anchored on human security and sustainable development.

4. Indeed, peace and development are two sides of the same coin. Sustainable development is critical to conflict prevention. The UN-World Bank study on "Pathways for Peace"¹ identifies that development processes can interact with security, diplomatic, justice, and human rights efforts to prevent conflicts from becoming violent.

5. On the other hand, the Secretary General's New Agenda for Peace, based on data from the OECD, finds that conflict-affected countries are significantly lagging behind on the Sustainable Development Goals, especially those that relate to hunger, good health and gender equality.

6. It is promising that the New Agenda for Peace recognises that "sustainable development is ultimately the only way to comprehensively address the interlinked, multidimensional drivers of violence and insecurity." We hope that this approach will be taken further forward.

Mr. President,

7. I wish to share the following observations on the agenda before us today:

8. First, we believe that conflicts do not occur in a vacuum. The context and drivers that brought about the conflicts themselves matter. Therefore, efforts to foster peace must address the root causes of such conflicts.

9. Inclusive and sustainable development is a vital component throughout the peace continuum. Local development needs should be integrated in every step toward peace, from prevention to peacekeeping and peacebuilding, to forge a strong foundation conducive to sustained peace and to prevent countries from experiencing the vicious cycle of conflict and poverty.

¹ Pathways for Peace Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict
<https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/fragilityconflictviolence/publication/pathways-for-peace-inclusive-approaches-to-preventing-violent-conflict>

10. As we approach the Summit of the Future to enhance multilateralism, with the UN at its core, next year, our collective efforts must be mobilised towards promoting peaceful means and pacific settlement of disputes, in accordance with the UN Charter, applicable international law and Security Council resolutions, as peace is prerequisite for development to take root.

11. At the same time, the Summit of the Future should gear us towards addressing poverty eradication, development gap and digital divide, shoring up efforts to respond to existing and emerging challenges, including climate change, and turbo charging efforts towards attaining SDGs, which are key for peace to be lasting and sustainable.

12. Second, the ultimate beneficiaries of our work here at the UN, whether on peace or development, are the people themselves. It is their welfare and future for which we are accountable.

13. People-centred approaches are vital in overcoming multi-faceted challenges, as they are firmly based on the inter-linkages and complementarities between sustaining peace, sustainable development and human security.

14. Inclusivity and participation are the inherent principles to such approaches. People need to be empowered in order for them to play a role in designing their common path towards sustainable peace. All stakeholders, from women and girls, people with disabilities to other vulnerable groups, should be able to engage actively in efforts towards sustainable peace and development.

15. And third, a wider and more robust global partnership is required to ensure synergy and effectiveness in promoting sustained peace through development. This means greater coherence within the UN system and more enhanced partnership beyond the UN.

16. The Security Council needs to engage with other UN bodies, such as the Peacebuilding Commission, the General Assembly and the ECOSOC, to better incorporate their expertise on development into its works, which will help ensure a more holistic approach in delivering the Council's mandate. International financial institutions, through engagement with relevant UN bodies, could also be an essential enabler in both financing for development and financing for peacebuilding.

17. Beyond the UN, regional organisations can play an important role in supporting such a holistic approach. As regions know the causes of their common challenges and the appropriate solutions to them best, they should be placed in the position to contribute to peace endeavours, and most importantly in prevention through promoting sustainable development most suitable to their needs.

18. We hope that these efforts will also be accompanied by wider partnership and processes. On this note, Thailand reaffirms our support for all efforts to build peace through development at regional and global levels. We will continue to support ASEAN's efforts to enhance complementarities between ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the 2030 Agenda, including through the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue. We commend China for its Global Development Initiative (GDI) to strengthen partnership for development and look forward to actively engage in its activities as a founding member of the Group of Friends on GDI. And we will continue to work with the international community to rescue the SDGs and to promote sustainable development in the UN and through international partnerships.

Mr. President,

19. To conclude, Thailand believes that there can be no peace without sustainable development and peace can only be sustained when people's development needs are met. Thailand stands ready to work with all partners to accelerate global efforts to achieve the SDGs in order to bring about sustained peace for all.

20. Thank you, Mr. President.
