



**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**

**Transnational organized crime, growing challenges and new threats**

**New York, 7 December 2023**

Mr. President,

1. Thailand is pleased to take part in this signature event under the Ecuador Presidency of the Council. We are confident that your Presidency will be fruitful and constructive. We commend China for a fruitful presidency last month.

2. This Open Debate is timely as transnational organized crime poses serious threats to international peace and stability, and to our efforts in attaining sustainable development in all regions.

3. Our appreciation goes to Ecuador for highlighting the importance of transnational crime to peace, security and stability in all regions and to the Secretary-General and all the briefers for their valuable views and insight on this often underemphasized challenge to human security.

4. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), since the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, casualty rates from organized crime are as high as those from all armed conflicts across the world combined. Moreover, the growing risks and the challenges posed by transnational networks, new actors and new emerging technologies have been highlighted in the Secretary-General's Our Common Agenda.

5. Despite grave impacts and growing challenges of transnational organized crime on sustainable development and global peace and security, it continues to be one of the most underrated risks.

6. Coherent and coordinated responses among Member States and relevant UN entities are needed to combat such transnational threats.

7. So Thailand wishes to share our views on this issue as follows:

8. First, closer cooperation in border management and law enforcement among Member States is vital to tackle transnational organized crime.

9. In many parts of the world, globalization has enabled transnational criminal activities to occur, multiply and be sustained.

10. Southeast Asia is no exception.

11. The region is facing threats from transnational criminal groups that have taken advantage of a higher degree of regional connectivity to expand their operations to commit illicit trafficking of drugs, persons, wildlife and timber. The more porous the border, the more penetrable these crimes.

12. Addressing such transnational threats needs effective border management. This cannot be carried out unilaterally. Thailand thus cooperates with neighbouring countries to monitor and detect the flow of transnational criminals and their activities.

13. At the sub-regional level, Thailand helps advance the 1993 Mekong MOU on Drug Control to address challenges related to illicit drug production, trafficking and use.

14. At the regional level, ASEAN is committed to addressing transnational crimes, with enhanced border management cooperation -- a conceptual and operational framework initiated by Thailand -- becoming one of the premier tools to address them. This was accomplished with the support and cooperation of the UNODC.

15. The recent 26<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Meeting (26<sup>th</sup> DGICM), held in August 2023, welcomed Thailand's proposal to develop the ASEAN Border Management Cooperation Roadmap. This aligns with the long-term goal of establishing a safe, secure, integrated, and interconnected ASEAN Community.

16. Second, digitalization and advanced technologies have profoundly contributed to the evolving nature of transnational organized crime. Digitalization is responsible for the rise of cyber-dependent and cyber-enabled criminal activities. Hence, promoting digital literacy could help provide viable solutions to the problem.

17. Addressing human trafficking and migrant smuggling from online scam operations have become a priority for Thai authorities because of their increasing prevalence. Apart from legal measures, a more holistic approach could be beneficial to addressing this problem. Promoting development can help empower and lessen the vulnerability of potential victims.

18. Third, Thailand recognizes the importance of the support provided by the international community and the UN system to strengthen efforts aimed at combating transnational organized crime, and calls on their enhanced cooperation with regional organizations.

19. Thailand is of the view that coherent system-wide UN action is essential for combating transnational organized crime. In this regard, Thailand encourages the Council to continue to work closely with UNODC and other relevant UN entities in fighting these threats. The UNODC continues to do much useful work and deserves our continued support.

20. We also call on relevant UN entities, namely UNODC and INTERPOL, to assist national authorities through the exchange of best practices and experiences on tackling transnational organized crime in all aspects from border control to tracing financial flows and detecting corruption.

21. To conclude, Thailand firmly believes that efforts to address transnational organized crime and its rapidly evolving nature should be holistic. Efforts at national, regional and global levels should be in sync.

22. Our efforts to address illicit transnational criminal activities are vital steps toward reducing the risks to global peace and security, and to advancing human security for all.

23. Thank you, Mr. President.

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