



**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 Dr. Suriya Chindawongse

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand

to the United Nations

**at the United Nations Security Council Quarterly Open Debate
on the Situation in the Middle East,
including the Palestinian Question**

25 April 2024, New York

As delivered

Mr. President,

1. Thailand wishes to commend Malta for convening this important Open Debate against the backdrop of the deteriorating situation in the region.

2. The central issue of urgency remains the deteriorating situation in Gaza. Thailand continues to be deeply concerned with the current catastrophic humanitarian situation in Gaza, with its unprecedented levels of destruction and suffering, including tens of thousands of casualties. The situation is intolerable and cannot continue.

3. An immediate ceasefire is urgently needed. The adoption of resolution 2728 (2024), put forward by the Council's elected members last month, was a major step forward. The resolution demands an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza, the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages, as well as the urgent need to expand the flow of humanitarian assistance to civilians.

4. Much to our regret, the month of Ramadan has ended with no end in sight for the suffering of the people in Gaza. The resolution has unfortunately not been implemented by the parties concerned. Thailand, thus, repeats our call on all sides to implement the relevant Security Council's resolutions in full.

5. In recent weeks, the situation has become more dangerous with developments in the region that threaten to exacerbate the situation and further amplify the regional dimensions of conflict.

6. So we call for continuing and utmost restraint by all parties so that the situation does not deteriorate further, as it will inevitably have an impact on innocent civilians. The UN Secretary-General reminded us of the UN Charter's prohibition on the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of a State and the inviolability of all diplomatic and consular premises in accordance with international law. Thailand thus calls on all parties to uphold the Charter of the United Nations, the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations.

Mr. President,

7. Our primary focus remains to end the conflict in Gaza. In this connection, Thailand urges the concerned parties to respect and fulfill their obligations under international humanitarian law. We condemn in the strongest terms all forms of violence and attacks against civilians, medical personnel and aid workers, regardless of their nationalities. The attacks on health establishments and units are also unacceptable. And we are opposed to any action that would result in forced displacement or transfer of civilians from Gaza.

8. We reiterate our appreciation for the diplomatic efforts of all parties involved in facilitating the release of some hostages, including 23 Thai nationals. Thailand remains deeply concerned for the safety of all remaining hostages. We reiterate our appeal, here and elsewhere, for their immediate and unconditional release, including Thai nationals, in line with the resolutions of the Security Council and the Tenth Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly. Indeed, just earlier today, Thailand and 17 other countries issued a Joint Statement calling for the release of these hostages. And pending their release, we call for the continuation of their proper treatment and care.

9. The role of UNRWA remains vital, as is international support for its work. Thailand appreciates UNRWA's positive and timely response to the Final Report of the "Independent Review Mechanisms and Procedures to Ensure Adherence by UNRWA to the Humanitarian Principle of Neutrality". We welcome the resumption of funding for UNRWA by several Member States. We also appeal to the international community to continue or resume the provision of humanitarian assistance to Gaza during these difficult times. And we reiterate our call for the continued protection of UN personnel and humanitarian aid workers who continue to risk their lives to bring help to all those affected in Gaza.

10. Thailand reaffirms, once again, its support for the collective efforts for diplomacy, de-escalation, and peaceful means, to find a mutually agreed solution to the conflict, in accordance with the two-State solution, where the states of Israel and Palestine live side-by-side in peace within secure and recognized borders, consistent with international law and relevant UN resolutions.

11. Lastly, unity of the Security Council is important to achieving progress on these and other issues. It is thus unfortunate that the Council was unable to agree on the issue of Palestine's application for admission to membership in the United Nations. We hope that the Council would come together to find ways forward on "the Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question", for the sake of the people of Palestine and especially in Gaza and for the sake of the people in the region.

12. Thank you, Madam President.
