



**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 Plenary of the 78th Session
of the United Nations General Assembly**

Agenda Item 63

**Use of the Veto: Special Report of the Security Council (A/78/691)
Debate pursuant to resolution 76/262**

9 January 2024, UNHQ, New York

(Check against delivery)

Mr. President,

1. We are gathered here at a General Assembly meeting held pursuant to UNGA resolution 76/262 of 26 April 2022 on the situation to which a veto was cast in the UN Security Council on 22 December 2023. The situation referred to is “The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question”.

2. The ongoing situation continues to be of serious concern to this body and to the international community in view of the ongoing fighting, the continuing loss of lives and devastating humanitarian consequences.

3. The UN Secretary-General’s letter to the President of the Security Council dated 5 January 2024 sums up the bleak and terrible situation, referring to the “devastating levels of death and destruction” as well as its grave impact on the humanitarian situation, the work of the United Nations and relevant personnel, and, most importantly, the loss of lives and livelihood, including the holding of hostages.

4. In light of the above, Thailand remains deeply concerned over the deteriorating humanitarian situation, the plight of all affected civilians and the possibility of a further escalation of the conflict.

5. We condemn in the strongest terms all forms of violence and attacks, wherever it takes place, against innocent civilians regardless of their nationalities. The protection of civilians must be a priority at all times. We urge all sides to respect and fulfill their obligations under international humanitarian law.

6. Because of the urgency of the situation, we join the call for an urgent and sustainable cessation of hostilities to allow safe and unhindered humanitarian access to Gaza for those in need.

7. We encourage all sides to do their utmost toward the resumption of a ceasefire as we hope to see the eventual permanent ceasefire.

8. We continue to appeal for the immediate and unconditional release of all remaining hostages, including Thai nationals, and also call for continuing proper treatment and care for these hostages. Let all the hostages come home.

9. Thailand welcomes the adoption of the United Nations Security Council resolution 2720 (2023) on scaling up and monitoring aid to Gaza and strongly urges all parties to act in accordance with the United Nations Security Council resolutions 2712 and 2720.

10. Thailand also welcomes the appointment of Ms. Sigrid Kaag of the Netherlands as Senior Humanitarian and Reconstruction Coordinator for Gaza pursuant to Security Council Resolution 2720 (2023) which should contribute to the improvement of the humanitarian situation in the Middle East. We hope that, under Ms. Kaag's supervision, adequate humanitarian aid will be delivered to those in need in Gaza in a safe, efficient, and timely manner.

11. As we welcome these resolutions, it is critical for us to ensure their full implementation. Indeed, the resolutions of the Security Council and the Tenth Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly have laid out all the necessary foundations towards de-escalation, delivery of humanitarian aid, the cessation of hostilities, and promoting peace in the Middle East.

12. So we call on all sides to implement these resolutions in full. And we wish to extend our appreciation to those who have worked to implement the resolutions, to help bring about an end to this conflict and to pave the way towards a mutually agreed solution to the issue in accordance with the two State solution, by which the states of Israel and Palestine, live side-by-side in peace and security, within secure and recognized borders, consistent with UN Security Council resolutions.

13. Lastly, Mr. President, as we are meeting pursuant to resolution 76/262, Thailand shares the views of the vast majority of UN Member States that a veto right is not a privilege but an international responsibility. We believe that UNGA resolution 76/262 can help enhance efficiency and accountability of the United Nations and particularly the Security Council.

14. But as we have seen in the almost two years since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 76/262, the exercise of vetoes has not been reduced, when compared to the several years prior to the adoption of this resolution.

15. Therefore, in order for the United Nations including the Security Council, to be more effective and accountable, and thus contribute to a more effective multilateralism that which we all seek, whether under the Summit of the Future or other UNGA processes, the UN and the Security Council must be more united in the discharge of its responsibilities based on the UN Charter, the UN and the Security Council must be more open and transparent in its work. And the UN and the Security Council must be more collaborative and focused in exercising diplomacy and peaceful means.

16. A polarized UN, a polarized Security Council, serves no one's interest.

17. So on this matter, Thailand will work closely with UN Member States and the international community in forging a pragmatic and consensus path forward to having a more effective and transparent United Nations including the Security Council, that can deliver more effectively, especially on the critical issue of international peace and security.

18. Thank you, Mr. President.
