



**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
the Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question**

New York, 23 January 2024

Monsieur le Président,

1. Je voudrais féliciter la France en tant que Président du Conseil et pour de progrès accomplis depuis le début de cette année. J'aimerais aussi saluer la France pour organiser ce débat ouvert sur "la situation au Moyen-Orient, y compris la question palestinienne", et remercier le Secrétaire-Général d'avoir partagé les informations les plus récentes sur la situation sur le terrain.

[English translation

Mr. President,

I wish to congratulate France on its Council Presidency and the progress achieved since the beginning of this year. I wish to also commend France for organising this Open Debate on “the Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question”, and to thank the Secretary-General for sharing the latest information on the situation on the ground.]

Mr. President,

2. Lives continue to be lost. Communities and families continue to grieve. And loved ones continue to wait, hope, and pray for the hostages to come home.

3. The deteriorating situation in the Middle East, with its serious and severe humanitarian consequences, remain our deep concern. Added to this are the heightened risks of the conflict assuming a more regional dimension. That is why it is more urgent than ever for the immediate resumption of a humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza.

4. To be clear, we reiterate our condemnation in the strongest terms of all forms of violence and attacks, wherever it takes place, against innocent civilians regardless of their nationalities. We are appalled at the devastating and growing toll of the ongoing conflict in Gaza on civilians. And we are opposed to actions that would result in forced displacement or transfer of civilians from Gaza.

5. International Humanitarian Law must be respected at all times. The protection of civilians must be a priority at all times.

6. On the humanitarian assistance front, Thailand 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 would hopefully 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.

7. We deeply appreciate the diplomatic efforts of all parties involved in facilitating the release of some hostages, including 23 Thai nationals, during the temporary ceasefire last year. Thank you for all the efforts. Since then, we remain gravely concerned for the safety of the remaining Thai nationals and all those who are being held hostage.

8. In line with the resolutions of the Security Council and the Tenth Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly, we continue to appeal for the immediate and unconditional release of all remaining hostages, including Thai nationals, and, pending their release, also call for continuing proper treatment and care for these hostages.

9. Let all hostages return home.

Mr. President,

10. To implement the recently adopted resolutions of the UN Security Council and the 10th Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly, we need resolute political determination.

11. A determination to pursue an urgent and sustainable cessation of hostilities, which is essential to allow rapid, safe, unhindered, expanded and sustained humanitarian access into and across Gaza for those in need. And we appeal to the international community to continue to mobilise humanitarian assistance in these difficult times.

12. A determination to exercise utmost restraint and take immediate and necessary measures to prevent the risk of the conflict having more regional dimensions.

13. And a determination for genuine dialogue and diplomacy with a view to finding a mutually agreed peaceful 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 recognised borders, consistent with relevant UNSC resolutions.

14. In closing, Thailand appeals to the Security Council to do its utmost to support peaceful efforts and to help bring about peace and security in the Middle East in accordance with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. And indeed, we find useful the three guiding principles referred to earlier this afternoon by the Foreign Minister of France, namely, humanity, justice and responsibility.

15. As for Thailand, we reaffirm our support for the collective efforts for diplomacy, de-escalation, and peaceful means to help end suffering and achieve an enduring peace. Indeed, an enduring peace is the best guarantee against future suffering.

16. Thank you, Mr. President.
