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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**

**Promoting Conflict Prevention**

**– Empowering All Actors including Women and Youth**

**13 March 2024, New York**

As delivered

Madam President,

1. At the outset, allow me to commend Japan for organising this important Open Debate. I also thank Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, and the briefers for their insights and recommendations.

2. Allow me to make the following five points.

3. First, peace, sustainable development and human rights reinforce one another. Therefore, one of the best ways to prevent conflict and thus help ensure peace is to promote sustainable development, enhance human security and promote and protect human rights.

4. If we could all attain our SDGs, there is less chance of conflict. If we can develop an environment where human security and human rights are promoted and protected, then there is greater chance for peace and stability to be sustained.

5. Second, conflict prevention requires multi-stakeholder and multi-level engagement. From governments to communities to individuals. We need to place emphasis on empowerment and meaningful participation of peoples, communities and other actors in building social harmony, economic development and reconciliation.

6. If all have a say and a stake in generating consensus solutions, then such solutions are likely to be more sustainable.

7. Third, a culture of peace, based on respect for diversity, emphasis on peaceful means and moderation, respect for international law and regional norms, needs to be reinforced.

8. This is something where the UN and regional organizations can make important contributions. In this connection, ASEAN, through its norm-building, community-building efforts and practical policies based on shared interests, has been a relative success story in preventive diplomacy and conflict prevention.

9. Fourth, women have an important role to play in conflict prevention. Security Council Resolution 1325, adopted in 2000, acknowledges that armed conflicts impact women and recognises the role and contributions of women in peace-making and peace-building, as well as their fundamental right to be included in peace processes.

10. Sustainable peace cannot be built when the rights of women are ignored. So transformational change is needed to protect women's rights and ensure gender equality in order to build and sustain peace. This includes women's empowerment through enhanced participation in politics, the economy and all facets of society.

11. Fifth, conflict prevention is enhanced when the interests, rights and welfare of youth and children are taken into account. Recognised by Security Council Resolution 2250 (2015), today's generation of youth is the largest the world has ever known and accounted for many of those civilians affected by armed conflict, including as refugees and displaced persons.

12. Youths and children have suffered, often times disproportionately, in conflict situations, in economic downturns and in pandemics. In our view, if today's youths do not have hope for a peaceful future, then our future is at risk. If the safety and welfare of children cannot be protected today, then we have a very shaky foundation to build our tomorrow.

13. So youths and children should be safeguarded. They should be given hope and nurtured to be creative and constructive enablers of peaceful change and contributors of progress. This will help lessen the risks of conflict in the future.

Madam President,

14. To conclude, it is therefore essential that conflict prevention, and its various dimensions, be an integral part of the Summit of the Future and a New Agenda for Peace. Thailand thus will cooperate with the United Nations and its Member States to enhance conflict prevention. Because it is at the heart of the UN's mandate and because it is in our collective interests to avoid conflict.

15. And in part to help attain this goal, Thailand will continue to promote sustainable development, enhance human security and promote and protect human rights, because they are inter-linked with one another and with sustaining peace. And because multi-dimensional factors impact on conflict prevention, we hope that pragmatic ways can also be found to enhance dialogue and complementarities, wherever possible, between the work of the Security Council and other UN bodies and entities, including the ECOSOC and the Human Rights Council.

16. Thank you, Madam President.

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