



AIDE-MEMOIRE

Thailand's Candidature for a Non-Permanent Seat on the United Nations Security Council for the term 2017-2018

Thailand and the UN

The Kingdom of Thailand has submitted its candidature for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the term 2017-2018, with the elections to be held in 2016, during the 71st session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Thailand became a member of the United Nations (UN) on 16 December 1946, having previously been a founding member of the League of Nations in 1919. We have always been committed to the purposes and principles of the UN as enshrined in the UN Charter. Our international role and contribution have consistently been based on the principle of constructive dialogue and sovereign equality among nations.

Thailand takes great pride in our long history of positive engagement with the UN. We served as President of the General Assembly in 1956 and served once as a non-permanent member of the UNSC in 1985-1986. Thailand was elected to the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) for the term 2010-2013 during which we served as President between 2010 and 2011. Thailand has subsequently submitted its HRC candidature for a second term in 2015-2017.

Thailand is host to a vibrant community of civil society and more than 30 UN or UN-affiliated agencies / regional headquarters in Bangkok, including UNESCAP, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNFPA and UNDP. Thailand has also served as a venue for international, regional and other meetings that have helped promote

conflict resolution as well as peace and stability, and have played a facilitating role in this regard. UN and multilateral affairs is an important pillar in Thailand's foreign policy.

Our Vision

We believe that peace and security, development, and human rights are mutually reinforcing issues that need to be addressed comprehensively. We believe in a people-centered approach to security. We also believe that what the UNSC is ultimately working for is peace and security of all peoples. We are convinced that for peace to be long-lasting, sustainable development must be achieved. The needs of all people, including their physical needs as well as their desire for freedom and protection of their inherent rights, must be fulfilled.

Conflict prevention is a more preferred approach rather than intervention once a conflict has started, as prevention saves life, time, effort and resources, especially considering that such resource could otherwise be channeled more productively towards development and building prosperity. Thailand believes that conflict prevention should be viewed in a broader context, including through fostering conditions that help make conflict more unlikely, such as promoting sustainable development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms through dialogue, cooperation and capacity building.

It is with this in mind that Thailand worked closely with other Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to promote preventive diplomacy within the context of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) which comprises all key countries that have an impact on security in the Asia-Pacific region. The ARF was launched in Thailand in 1994 and adopted a Vision Statement in 2009 during Thailand's chairmanship of the ARF, setting the direction for ARF cooperation on building trust and confidence, and development of preventive diplomacy.

As a medium-sized and middle-income developing country, Thailand believes it can constructively serve as a bridge between the developed and developing worlds to ensure that everyone stays on track and works together for the common goals of world peace, prosperity, and protection of rights.

Peace and Security

The maintenance of international peace and security is the core responsibility of the UNSC. As a responsible member of the United Nations, Thailand has fully cooperated with the UNSC towards effective implementation of its resolutions.

Thailand is committed to supporting the process of disarmament and non-proliferation of all types of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) and was instrumental in incorporating commitment of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to having Southeast Asia “free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction” into the ASEAN Charter. At the global level, Thailand is a State Party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), and the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC).

In addition, Thailand is the Depository State of the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) Treaty or the Bangkok Treaty and, together with other Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have urged the five Nuclear Weapon States to accede to the Protocol to the SEANWFZ Treaty which have made significant contributions to regional peace and security. Thailand considers the creation of other such zones based on arrangements freely arrived at by States in the region as a positive step towards the ultimate goal of a nuclear-weapons-free world. To promote global and regional cooperation on nuclear-related issues, Thailand is part of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) and the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), and is seeking to promote enhanced cooperation and networking of nuclear regulatory agencies within ASEAN.

Safety of innocent civilians is particularly close to our heart. Thailand adheres to the norms as reflected in the Mine Ban Convention and respects the humanitarian principles as reflected in the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. We also fully support the multilateral efforts to combat illicit trade in conventional arms as well as other processes to strengthen international norms and cooperation towards this end.

Thailand has been a major contributor in the area of peacekeeping. Since 1950, Thailand has sent over 20,000 personnel to serve in over 20 UN peacekeeping and related missions worldwide, including in Cambodia, Timor-Leste, Burundi, Haiti, Bosnia Herzegovina, Lebanon and The Sudan. For peace to be sustainable, we believe that peacekeeping must go hand in hand with peacebuilding and development. We firmly support the concept of sustainable peace through people-centered development and community empowerment, particularly at the grassroots level.

Thailand’s contribution to international peace and security extends to maritime security and anti-piracy efforts. The Royal Thai Navy has deployed its Counter Piracy Task Group to join the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) in patrolling and protecting ships against piracy attacks in the Gulf of Aden area. Closer to home, Thailand has taken part in various regional anti-piracy efforts, including the Malacca Straits Coordinated Patrol (MSCP), the Regional Cooperation

Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP), and “Eyes in the Sky” missions.

On conflict prevention, Thailand has been in the forefront of regional efforts in building trust and confidence and promoting preventive diplomacy through various mechanisms and frameworks. Thailand played a critical role in the founding of ASEAN in 1967 through the Bangkok Declaration and, more than 40 years later, was Chair of ASEAN when the ASEAN Charter came into force in 2008, paving the way for the creation of an ASEAN Community by 2015.

In addition, Thailand supports the observance as well as the expansion of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC), which has promoted the adherence to the important principles of non-use of force and peaceful settlement of disputes. The TAC now comprises more than 30 parties, including all Permanent Members of the UNSC and all countries in East Asia.

Sustainable Development

Development cannot be advanced in isolation from the promotion of security and human rights. Development must be people-centered and comprehensive, while economic growth sustained, inclusive and equitable.

Thailand has played a leading role in promoting an inclusive and sustainable development in the region and beyond. UNDP’s first Human Development Lifetime Achievement Award was presented in 2006 to His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand for his extraordinary contribution to human development, which benefits not only Thai citizens but also the international community.

Thailand stands ready to continue to work with other countries through bilateral and trilateral cooperation, South-South cooperation and multilateral frameworks to share our knowledge and experience in alleviating poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and our voluntary, more ambitious targets – called MDG Plus – in the areas of poverty eradication, education, health, gender equality, and environment.

As part of our longstanding partnership with the UN and the international community, Thailand strives to strengthen capacities of developing countries, especially Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDs), to better cope with transnational threats and challenges, including diseases, trafficking in drugs and persons, climate change and natural disasters.

Thailand has continuously promoted alternative development, including through the process towards realizing the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative

Development as a universal set of strategy for development to address the world drug problem. We also try to make a difference on the ground, domestically and internationally, through the works of the Mae Fah Luang Foundation under Royal Patronage and the Royal Project Foundation .

Building on our successful experiences in achieving the MDGs, Thailand will continue to work closely with other members of the UN Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the international community towards shaping and implementing a shared vision on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the SDGs. In our views, the Post-2015 Development Agenda should remain people-centered and place high priority on poverty eradication as well as other key elements such as ensuring sustainability, building resilience, reducing inequality and the gender gap, promoting human rights and strengthening good governance.

On disaster management, Thailand has actively supported and promoted close coordination among various centers, institutes and arrangements that deal with disaster management and disaster preparedness, including Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief cooperation under ASEAN, ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM Plus) and the East Asia Summit (EAS) in the region, and through the Hyogo Framework for Action and beyond.

As the world's leading food producer, Thailand's global partnership extends to food security which is an important preventive measure with regard to conflict. Thailand has worked closely with the World Food Programme (WFP), among others, to assist those in need during various crises, including in Haiti, Myanmar, Nepal, Senegal and Sri Lanka.

Human Rights and Humanitarian Assistance

We are committed to human rights which are inviolable, inalienable, and universal. Thailand was one of the first 48 countries to endorse the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. We have also consistently supported the work of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) since its inception in 2006. Our human rights policy is guided by the principles of reaching out, hearing out and respecting the views of all.

In addition, Thailand has been playing an active part in various international human rights fora. Thai mandate holders were elected or appointed to several human rights treaty bodies and special procedures, including the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the

Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

At regional level, Thailand has also played an instrumental role and contributed to the realisation of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), which was established during Thailand's Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2009, and the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) which was chaired by Thailand when it was created in 2009.

As part of our contribution to human rights norm-setting, Thailand proposed the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders, as guided by Her Royal Highness Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol. This "Bangkok Rules" was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2010. This initiative aims to ensure gender sensitivity and respect for specific need of women in the formulation and revision of prison and correctional management policies worldwide.

Thailand has long upheld a humanitarian tradition of helping displaced persons and asylum seekers from neighbouring countries, having given shelter to hundreds of thousands of them over the past decades. Thailand has also extended assistance to humanitarian efforts far beyond our borders. We played a vital role as the hub for the international humanitarian assistance to Myanmar after Cyclone Nargis and contributed to humanitarian needs in many places including Gaza and Haiti.

The UNSC

Given the emergence of new security challenges that lay before the UNSC, many of which are non-traditional and transnational, the UNSC must adjust to changing realities and better respond to these challenges. Thailand envisions a UNSC working with greater efficiency, transparency, and engagement with concerned parties. It should work more closely with other UN bodies towards greater coherence and coordination. There should be greater cooperation between the UNSC and regional and sub-regional organizations, as these bodies are major regional players with greater local influence and understanding of specific local contexts.

Our Pledge

Given our past record and present actions, Thailand is ready to serve as an active member of the UNSC to work for the common good of all. As a medium-sized developing country with firsthand experience and practice in development, the safeguarding of human rights, and maintenance of security and with overall good

relations with countries worldwide, Thailand stands ready to act as a “Bridge for Partnership” on global issues and common concerns between the developed and developing countries, as well as between Asia and the rest of the world.

If elected as a non-permanent member of the UNSC, Thailand pledges to be a bridge-builder for members and non-members of the UNSC. In addition, Thailand pledges to work closely with the international community as well as regional bodies to achieve sustainable peace and development and the promotion of human rights worldwide.

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