



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THAILAND
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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Statement

by

Her Excellency Miss Yingluck Shinawatra

Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand

at the General Debate

67th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

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Mr. President,

1. On behalf of the delegation of the Kingdom of Thailand, allow me to congratulate you on your election to the Presidency of the Sixty-seventh Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

2. I would also like to convey our appreciation to the outgoing President, His Excellency Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser for his outstanding leadership during the previous session of the General Assembly.

Mr. President,

3. We continue to live in challenging times.

4. Much still needs to be done to restore stability and confidence in the global financial and economic system, and to find long term solutions to the Eurozone crisis. The Arab Spring has taught that it is very important to listen to the voice of the people. The risk of conflicts around the globe -- in various regions as we have witnessed -- may affect our efforts to promote peace, prosperity and democracy.

5. We have also seen how religious insensitivity and hate can lead to violence. In light of this, we need to promote a culture of tolerance, mutual respect and understanding, both in and among societies. They are essential factors to prevent conflict and promote lasting peace.

6. In our efforts to promote sustained peace and security, we are confronted with a wide range of threats, both old and new. It is therefore necessary for us to seek innovative solutions and new thinking.

7. We need strong leadership, political will and good global governance. It is imperative that we settle **international disputes by peaceful means**. But even beyond that, we need to think in terms of preventive and pre-emptive actions which will deter such disputes from arising in the first place.

8. Most importantly, we have to think in terms of promoting inclusive and comprehensive peace and development, both within and among countries. Peace, security and development are all inter-connected.

Mr. President,

9. Economic development must go hand in hand with political advancement. I would like to emphasize this in three points:

10. **First, an inclusive national development strategy is vital.**

During this period of economic uncertainties, we must not consider economic growth alone. It is important to put the people at the front and centre of the development agenda. Sustainable growth and development, poverty reduction, addressing climate change and environmental challenges and promoting greater employment equality must go hand in hand.

11. This is what every government should do: putting people at the heart of the country's economic development strategy. Because we believe that the greatest asset of any country is its people and how much a country can excel depends on how much its people can fully realize their potentials.

12. **Second, an inclusive regional development is the way forward** and would strengthen the fabrics of regional peace and security. Thailand strongly believes that we and our neighbours in the region have a shared destiny.

13. We have a shared interest in fostering common peace and prosperity. We should therefore strive to prosper together because only by working together we can create a much needed synergy that would support our common development. And by prospering together, chances of conflict can be limited.

14. In Southeast Asia, this is spirit that drives the ten ASEAN Member States to establish an ASEAN Community by the year 2015. As ASEAN moves towards greater integration, great efforts are being made to close development gaps and expand connectivity across Southeast Asia and beyond to the wider East Asia and South Asia. This would help spread the fruits of development and growth wider across the continent.

15. And as economic activities become more concentrated in East Asia, this closer integration and expanded connectivity, together with an expanding region-wide network of free-trade agreements will further strengthen the resilience of East Asia, create greater opportunities and unleash the full potentials of this promising region.

16. **Third, an inclusive process at the global level is crucial as the international community considers the post-2015 development agenda.**

17. The Millennium Development Goals or MDGs have been an important tool that resulted in better livelihoods for millions of people. With the 2015 fast approaching, the international community should mobilize an all-out effort to make the final push in realizing these MDGs.

18. At the same time, it is important to prepare for the post- 2015. Successes and failures of the MDGs implementation should be taken into account as the international community starts to frame the post-2015 development agenda or the Sustainable Development Goals.

19. The process towards this end should be as inclusive as possible to ensure that the post 2015 development agenda would enjoy the broadest possible support and ownership of the international community. Thailand will play an active and constructive role in this process because development is something that is close to our heart.

Mr. President,

20. **In this age of globalization, the concept of absolute security has become obsolete.** Peace can never be achieved in isolation. We can only seek peace through common security and stability. We must work closely with friends in each region to strengthen their capacities in meeting their development goals. We believe that the peace and prosperity of our neighbours is that of our own.

21. This is particularly relevant in the present case of Myanmar during the critical period of transition towards greater democracy, which Thailand fully supports. We must all work together as partners to help Myanmar continue in this process of change. We will all benefit from this economic cooperation and integration.

Mr. President,

22. We live in a world of increasing inter-connectivity. But our peoples continue to face insecurity from cross-border challenges. **In this age of globalization, the concept of security must be people-centered.** Therefore, transnational challenges -- from people smuggling to human trafficking, from narcotics to pandemics, from natural disasters to illegal trade in arms and Weapons of Mass Destruction materials -- must rank high on our national agenda. The international community should redouble its collective effort to act forcefully against **transnational crimes** that thrive in a world of increased inter-connectivity.

23. No doubt, one of the worst forms of human indignity is **human trafficking**. I consider this as a matter of national priority and am fully committed to eliminating this inhumane exploitation. Whether it is human trafficking or other transnational crimes, the key is to ensure that the rule of law prevails and the basic rights of the peoples guaranteed, especially vulnerable groups, such as **women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities**, who deserve our special attention.

24. Solutions to these challenges cannot be achieved through governments alone. We need to work with all stakeholders, especially in strengthening international norms and standards. Through the United Nations, we need to promote the rule of law as a solid foundation to achieve peace, international security, human rights and sustainable development.

Mr. President,

25. We are committed to promoting peace and prosperity in the country and in the international arena. But ultimately, this must begin at home. It can best be accomplished by providing space for all within the democratic process and promoting national reconciliation. Most importantly, we must think in terms of partnership and work together as responsible members of the international community.

26. Working through the United Nations, we need to reach out to people who have been denied their legitimate rights and aspirations. It is in this spirit that the Royal Thai Government **established diplomatic relations with the State of Palestine** on 1 August 2012, in the hope that both Israel and Palestine can achieve true and lasting peace based on a two-state solution.

27. Elsewhere in the Middle East, the situation in Syria continues to worsen. Thailand is deeply concerned about the humanitarian impact of violence against civilians and strongly condemns such violence. We call for an immediate end to use of force against civilians. We call for all sides to engage in dialogue towards a political solution which can only be achieved by the efforts of the Syrian people themselves.

28. In the quest for peace and security, we believe it is necessary to continually look beyond our borders. Thailand wishes to reaffirm our commitment to **peacekeeping** in difficult times as necessary. From Timor-Leste to Haiti to Darfur and in the Gulf of Aden, Thailand's peacekeeping operations also assist in local and community development, sharing our best practices in agriculture, health and water resource management.

29. In sum, **Mr. President**, Thailand has continued to engage with the international community across all three pillars of the United Nations: peace and security, development, and human rights. The management of these interconnected issues will provide us with long-term solutions, not only for conflict resolution via peaceful means but also for ways to prevent conflicts from arising altogether.

30. I assure you all that Thailand will continue to be a strong partner of the United Nations in helping to address these shared challenges of humanity. It is with this conviction that we have submitted our candidature as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the term of 2017-2018.

Thank you.
