



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

351 EAST 52ND STREET · NEW YORK, NY 10022
TEL (212) 754-2230 · FAX (212) 688-3029

Statement

by

Delegation of Thailand to the United Nations

before the Sixth Committee

of the 67th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

Agenda Item 83: The rule of law at the national

and international levels

New York, 10 October 2012

Please check against delivery

Mr. Chairman,

Thailand aligns itself with the statements delivered this morning by the Permanent Representative of Iran for the Non-Aligned Movement and Permanent Representative of Viet Nam on behalf of ASEAN.

Thailand commends the efforts of the United Nations in promoting the rule of law and would like to thank the Secretary General for his reports “Delivering justice: programme of action to strengthen the rule of law at the national and international levels” and “Strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities”. The two reports illustrate the valuable role of the United Nations in supporting efforts to strengthen the rule of law at the national and international levels. They also highlight the next steps that need to be taken in order to develop a more comprehensive United Nations approach in support of national priorities.

We also gratefully welcome the recommendations suggested in above-mentioned reports and will integrate them into our national practices and programmes of action. In 2011, for example, the Royal Thai Government established the Independent National Rule of Law Commission to ensure that all State organs perform their duties based on the rule of law, with the objective of reinforcing their accountability, which should, in turn, guarantee social peace and prosperity.

Mr. Chairman,

Thailand welcomes the successful outcome of the first High-Level Meeting on the Rule of Law at the national and international levels held on 24th September 2012. At the meeting, international organizations, Member States and private organizations expressed their sincere commitment to uphold the highest standard of the rule of law. The adoption of the Declaration during the High-Level Meeting is not the end of our work, but serves as a basis for members of this international community to start developing their actions in promoting and strengthening the rule of law.

During the High-Level Meeting, the head of the Thai delegation, Her Royal Highness Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol delivered a statement on behalf of ASEAN and Thailand, addressing the development of the rule of law. Her Royal Highness stressed Thailand’s firm commitment to the rule of law, and delivered Thailand’s pledge to comply with all the treaties to which it is party, in particular those pertaining to international human rights.

Thailand wishes to highlight in particular the importance of mainstreaming gender sensitivity and a rights-based approach into the criminal justice system. A key concept underpinning the rule of law is equality before the law. To translate this fundamental idea into practice, the criminal justice system needs to take into account the issue of gender sensitivity. Frequently, the process of police investigations, from witness interviews to the prosecution of cases, is often male-dominated. As a result, all too often, women are subject to discrimination, both subtle and overt. Therefore, Thailand believes that integrating gender sensitivity and a rights-based approach into the criminal justice system would help promote equality before the law and equal access to justice for all.

Thailand is pleased to note the many pledges made by States and others organizations at the High-Level meeting. We also presented our own pledge to ratify the optional Protocol to the Convention of the Right of the Child on the Communication Procedure. This pledge has already been fulfilled. Furthermore, we are ready to share our best practices on the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-Custodial Measures for Women Offenders or the “Bangkok Rules”, concrete actions which can be implemented for the benefit of female inmates around the world.

Mr. Chairman,

Upholding the rule of law requires the constant effort of all stakeholders in society. Thailand wishes to reaffirm its commitment to ensure that the rule of law takes strong root at the national level and to cooperate with relevant actors in the international community in promoting it at the global level under the umbrella of the United Nations.

Thank you.
