



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

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**Statement**

by

**His Excellency Mr. Norachit Sinhaseni**

**Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand**

**to the United Nations**

**before the Sixth Committee**

**of the 69<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

**Agenda Item 82: The rule of law**

**at the national and international levels**

**Subtopic : Sharing States' national practices in strengthening the rule of law**

**through access to justice**

**New York, 10 October 2014**



**Please check against delivery**

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, my delegation wishes to align itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished Permanent Representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on behalf of ASEAN and by the distinguished Representative of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

My delegation thanks the Secretary General for his report submitted in accordance with paragraph 41 of the declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the rule of law at the national and international levels. The report entitled "Strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities" is a good example of follow-up effort from the successful high-level meeting.

Mr. Chairman,

Thailand welcomes the subject of "Sharing States' national practices in strengthening the rule of law through access to justice" as the sub-topic for the debate under this agenda item this year. We believe that States will greatly benefit from the sharing of experiences and best practices with one another. Such discussions will allow States to move forward together and avoid repeating other's mistakes.

Thailand is of the view that dialogue amongst States regarding the advancement of the rule of law plays a crucial role in enhancing States' national practices and the global effort to strengthen the rule of law. That is precisely why Thailand hosted in November 2013, the "Bangkok Dialogue on the Rule of Law: Investing in the Rule of Law, Justice and Security for the Post-2015 Development Agenda." The event brought together world leaders and global experts to discuss how the rule of fair and equitable justice system can help advance sustainable development. In addition, for the past two years, Thailand has presented resolutions at the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) entitled "the Rule of Law, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in the UN Development Agenda beyond 2015".

We believe that investing in the rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice that creates a culture of lawfulness is indispensable to the sustainability of growth and development. We also hope that the results of both processes will feed into the formulation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Mr. Chairman,

Throughout the world, there are those who continue to be denied access to justice while facing exclusion or discrimination. We believe that States have the primary responsibility to address these issues by providing equitable access to justice systems and promoting and protecting the rights of all people, especially vulnerable groups.

In Thailand, efforts have been made to disseminate information on people's right to state compensation in accordance with the Compensation and Expenses for Injured Person and the Accused Act of 2011. An easy-to-understand guideline on submission of complaints and application for

remedy, under the said Act is also available in every provincial justice office throughout the country. Furthermore, to increase access to justice, a Center for Remedy of Victims of Crimes has been established to assist victims of crimes. The Compensation and Expenses for Injured Person and the Accused Act of 2011 is being reviewed in order to add more criminal offences.

Thailand has always placed focus on particular needs of vulnerable groups. We agree totally with the Secretary-General, who in his report, under the part “enhancing access to justice”, stated that “women are among those who face significant barriers in accessing justice systems. Children also face significant challenges with poorly functioning justice systems or in accessing justice systems.” Enhancing women’s access to justice is one of Thailand’s priorities. Our independent National Rule of Law Commission ensures that all State organs perform their duties based on the rule of law, without discrimination.

Mr. Chairman,

In 2010, Thailand launched the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-Custodial Measures for Women Offenders, or the Bangkok Rules. The Bangkok Rules aims to develop alternative measures and provides basic healthcare and humane treatment for women offenders. The Rules also advocates the rehabilitation of women offenders through vocational activities. Four years since its adoption by the General Assembly, we are actively promoting the implementation of the Rules in correctional facilities at national, regional and international levels.

Furthermore, at the recent Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in May this year, Thailand and Austria jointly proposed a resolution titled “United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice”. The resolution was adopted by the CCPCJ and is expected to be adopted by the General Assembly this year. The Model Strategies serve as a practical tool in preventing and responding to violence against children who come into contact with the criminal justice system either as victims, witnesses, or alleged or recognized offenders. The adoption and implementation of the Model Strategies, we hope, will enhance access to justice for children as well as strengthen the administration of justice based on the rule of law. This week, the Global Program on the Model Strategies is being launched in Vienna. We see the Model Strategies as another important platform for sharing best practices as called for by today’s sub-topic.

Mr. Chairman,

Thailand takes its obligations under international instruments seriously. They assist us in harmonizing our domestic laws with international norms and standards. Last year, Thailand ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. Thailand is already a signatory to the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. Currently, we are in the process of amending our laws so we will be able to ratify the Protocol in the near future.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, Thailand firmly believes that the rule of law is a prerequisite for the advancement of peace and security, development, and human rights in individual States and the international community as a whole. Thailand is committed to working with fellow member states, international organizations and other partners to further promote the rule of law at both national and international levels.

Thank you.