



PERMANENT MISSION OF THAILAND
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Statement

by

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Prime Minister of Thailand

at the High-Level Plenary Meeting

of the 60th Session of the UN General Assembly

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**Mr. Co-President,
Mr. Secretary-General,
Distinguished Heads of States and Heads of Governments,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

At the outset, on behalf of the people of Thailand, let me express our deepest sympathy and condolences to all the people who suffered from the Hurricane Katrina. As we have experienced similar trauma because of the tsunami, our hearts are with you all the way for speedy recoveries.

Allow me also to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your election as President of the **60th Session of the General Assembly. Our profound appreciation also goes to the President of the 59th Session for the successful preparation of this Summit.**

Mr. Co-President,

For many people, sixty is the time to retire. But far from that, the UN at sixty must be more rejuvenated, more strengthened or even reinvented in order to be a more effective, more efficient, more transparent and more accountable global body to serve the international community.

Our modern world of globalization demands a United Nations that is dynamic in outlook, flexible in structure, and firm in its commitment to the enduring ideals for which it was created.

After the Cold War, the world today is a significantly changed place, characterized by the pre-eminence of a single political and economic system of democracy and capitalism, which are two sides of the same coin.

It is generally recognized that capitalism, whose hallmark is free competition, provides the best opportunity for our peoples to pursue their dreams. However, free competition must also be fair. Unfortunately, not everyone is equally fit to race in the same free competition. I equate this situation with a patient, who has just been released from the Intensive Care Unit of a hospital, being forced to run a race under the same rules with a supremely fit athlete. It is a free competition, but is it also fair?

In Asia, in Latin America, and in Africa, poverty alleviation must remain at the top of our agenda to bring about human dignity, human rights, and human security, and to reduce injustice and conflicts, to reduce resentment and radicalism, and to combat violence and terrorism. However,

as **I** have done in Thailand in the last few years, the progress of poverty alleviation resulted **from the combination** of the opening up of international market access and self-help.

The ability to take part in fair trade is the opportunity for a nation to help itself. To encourage self-help, international efforts must ensure that free competition goes together with fair competition. The Millennium Development Goals will not be achievable simply because of the internationally committed ODA percentage alone. It will depend as much on the ability of the international community to deliver a fairer system of world trade. This must be an agenda that the UN reform cannot ignore.

Mr. Co-President,

As enshrined in our Charter, it is "We the peoples" whom the United Nations is representing. So it is imperative that the UN must be kept a global citizen-centered organization in its perceptions, its outlooks, its tasks, its actions and its responsibilities.

But on the other hand, as "We the peoples" pledge our efforts to unite for a more *United* Nations, we must remember to be aware that the United Nations cannot truly be *united* as long as its members are divided on the basis of domestic interests and political gains.

Today, therefore, is the test of our leadership. And leadership starts from a realization that we must be prepared to trade disunity for unity, narrow interests for shared responsibility, and a bitter past in favour of a better future. Our leadership must accept changes. Our leadership must accept that the world of globalization and the new landscape means the need to think beyond our national boundaries for the common good, and to bring peace and prosperity to the globe. Our leadership must also include the ability to respond promptly, with compassion and generosity, to those in immediate need, those suffering from severe starvation, and those hit by famine, such as Niger.

The revitalization of the General Assembly, the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council to play a more assertive role in development, as well as the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission, the Human Rights Council and the Democracy Fund may be acceptable key reform proposals, but reform of this magnitude must be accompanied by a **major overhaul of the management system. Thailand, under my administration, has gone through both major economic** and political reforms, which were successful only because I launched an unprecedented scale of management reform at the same time.

As the problems of the world become more complex and intertwined, so do the tasks and responsibilities of the UN and its agencies. For the UN to be a global citizen-centered organization that fulfils such tasks and to remain relevant to citizens from all walks of life, improved coordination between agencies and with the country and the people on the ground must be part of the reform.

But all these require total commitment from both the UN and all of us, the 191 Members. So, to be fair, let's ask not if the UN can do more, but ask what more we can do for the UN.

Mr. Co-President,

Reform is a process. Today, as the Outcome Document is endorsed, that process will begin. Its success depends on the continued support of all players and the management ability of the organization's leadership to see it through.

Today, "we, the peoples" begin the process of reform of the millennium. Tomorrow, with our support, we shall ensure that the process is implemented by a management that is itself well-reformed and by a leadership well-prepared to deliver us a more global citizen-centered United Nations.

Every word in the Document bears the fingerprint of each and every Member State. All of us have a shared responsibility to make the United Nations work. We shall owe it to ourselves and we owe it to our future generations if we fail.

Thank you.
