



**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**

**Ms. Chonvipat Changtrakul**

**Delegate of Thailand**

**to the Third Committee**

**of the 63rd Session of the UN General Assembly**

**Agenda Item 56: Advancement of Women**

**New York, 14 October 2008**

***Please check against delivery***



Mr. Chairman,

Over the years, the Royal Thai Government has made significant efforts to address the issue of gender inequality. We have in place a medium term plan of action which specifically aims to promote opportunities for women to fully participate in the development process at all levels and protect the rights of women in line with the obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

In addition to our commitment in fulfilling international obligations, we believe that basic rights and necessities for women especially rural women must be met. In this regard, we would like to express our appreciation to UNIFEM for its efforts in gender mainstreaming of all the 8 MDGs. At this mid-term review of the MDGs, we believe that Member States should take stock whether all the targets have taken into account gender perspectives. For our part, with regard to Goal 2 in achieving universal primary education, Thailand has already achieved the elimination of disparity among boys and girls in primary and secondary education and has been pursuing the MDGs plus goal on the reduction of gender disparity in **tertiary education**. For Goal 5 in improving maternal health, Thailand has done its utmost to ensure that impoverished mothers in rural areas have access to **universal healthcare** and regular check-ups. This has led to a significant reduction in the risk of maternal death. Better family planning and universal healthcare have also led to a reduction in the transmission of HIV/AIDS from mother to child.

Not only do we strive to achieve gender equality in MDGs, but in term of women's **economic empowerment**, Thailand places great importance on the role of rural women. In this light, several schemes such as a progressive land tax rate, the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) incentive scheme, micro-credit facilities and farmers' temporary debt suspension scheme have been introduced to enhance rural women's opportunities in access to finance.

Mr. Chairman,

We believe that gender equality and the empowerment of women cannot be achieved if **violence against women** still persists. In this regard, legal measures for the elimination of all forms of violence against women including sexual violence, have been established and strengthened. These, amongst others, are evidenced to our commitment to implement measures in accordance with the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. In addition to this, as the Royal Thai Government has acknowledged that domestic violence is a scourge which many women suffer, but are too ashamed to voice out, we have specifically issued the Protection of Domestic Violence Victims Act 2007 to actively address violence in the family as well as provide rehabilitation and means to protect victims from domestic violence.

**Human trafficking** is one of the worst forms of violence against women and the Royal Thai Government has made significant progress to prevent and fight trafficking in persons, particularly women and children, for many years through various measures. We place great importance in bilateral, regional and international cooperation, not to mention the inclusion of all segments of society – public, private and civil society – in our anti-trafficking efforts. Moreover, with regard to the rehabilitation of women and girls who have been trafficked, welfare homes have been established to take care of both Thai and foreign victims, legal and illegal migrants and to provide medical care to victims, physically and mentally. These concrete examples are inline with the recommendations in the reports of the Secretary-General which urges states to intensify efforts to improve access to health and support services for victims.

Mr. Chairman,

We have learned that **gender mainstreaming**, especially the creation of a government unit to oversee the rights and the advancement of women, can be an effective tool in the efforts to achieve gender equality and elimination of violence against women. In our case, Thailand has made much progress in gender mainstreaming from grassroots to policy making levels. In addition to a special office on women’s affairs which has been set up since 2002, the Royal Thai Government has nominated Gender Focal Points in all the Ministries and local administrations in all provinces of Thailand. These Gender Focal Points’ mandate is to ensure that the administration under their responsibility will take due account of gender perspectives.

In conclusion, my delegation would like to highlight that it is necessary to empower women as women have important roles at the most basic unit in the society which is family. It is important to ensure better education for women because women have significant role in shaping the future generations at home. It is also important to ensure that opportunities are available for women, as they are a crucial factor for economic development, especially in this period where the society is aging. In short, it means that if we are to ensure a better economy and society, it is important to ensure that all discrimination against women are eliminated.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman

.....