



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

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**Statement**

**by**

**H.E. Mr. Virasakdi Futrakul  
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of the Kingdom of Thailand**

**at the High-Level Meeting on Action for Peacekeeping**

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**United Nations Headquarters, New York**

**Please check against delivery**

Mr. President,  
Mr. Secretary-General,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I wish to convey our appreciation, on behalf of the Government of Thailand and our Prime Minister, to the Secretary-General for his “Action for Peacekeeping” initiative, as well as for the Declaration of Shared Commitments on UN Peacekeeping Operations, which Thailand joins with others in endorsing today.

Mr. President,

Our peacekeeping agenda remains as relevant today as it was when the United Nations was created over seventy years ago. A core function of the Organization, it is a symbol of hope to those in dire conflict situations. We must therefore ensure that it remains fit for purpose and complements our whole-of-system approach to achieving peace.

At the same time, we are moving more towards “sustaining peace”. This represents a significant paradigm shift, opening up a new reality for peacekeeping -- one where peace is no longer a stand-alone agenda, but co-dependent on sustainable development and respect for human rights.

Peacekeeping operations should therefore be viewed from a fresh perspective, one that sees it as a vital component of the entire peace process. As a committed troop contributing country with experience from many peacekeeping operations, Thailand believes that there are still several issues that should be addressed.

First, peace processes require clear mandates and guidelines, together with the provision of sufficient resources. Short-term peacekeeping objectives should be aligned with long-term political goals. Among others, community engagement elements of peacekeeping operations should be strengthened. This would help enhance communication with all stakeholders in society and assist them in echoing their needs, engaging with their national authorities, and taking part in more inclusive and impartial political settlements of conflicts.

Second, peacekeepers should be mandated to undertake early peacebuilding tasks that are part and parcel of sustaining peace. Mandating peacekeepers to support development efforts would allow for smoother transitions and potentially reduce operational costs if coordinated closely with development agencies on the ground in accordance with existing mandates and principles of national ownership and state responsibility.

And third, as we work towards enhancing the performance of peacekeeping operations, the peacekeepers themselves should be part of the “people” that we need to protect. Together with proper training and sufficient resources, peacekeepers should be entitled to appropriate compensation, particularly in cases of disabilities or casualties, which have not been revised for years. To ensure that they are able to carry out their missions to their fullest potentials, we must take care of our peacekeepers, who more often than not have to operate in life-threatening situations and the most difficult of circumstances.

Mr. President,

As Thailand prepares to deploy a Horizontal Military Engineering Company in our latest mission to support the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), we reaffirm our commitment that our peacekeepers around the world will do their part to support sustainable development efforts locally. Within their mandate, our peacekeepers shall continue to be early peacebuilders to help achieve sustainable development and lasting peace in all the missions they are deployed in.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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