



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

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**Statement by**

**Mrs. Siriporn Chaimongkol**

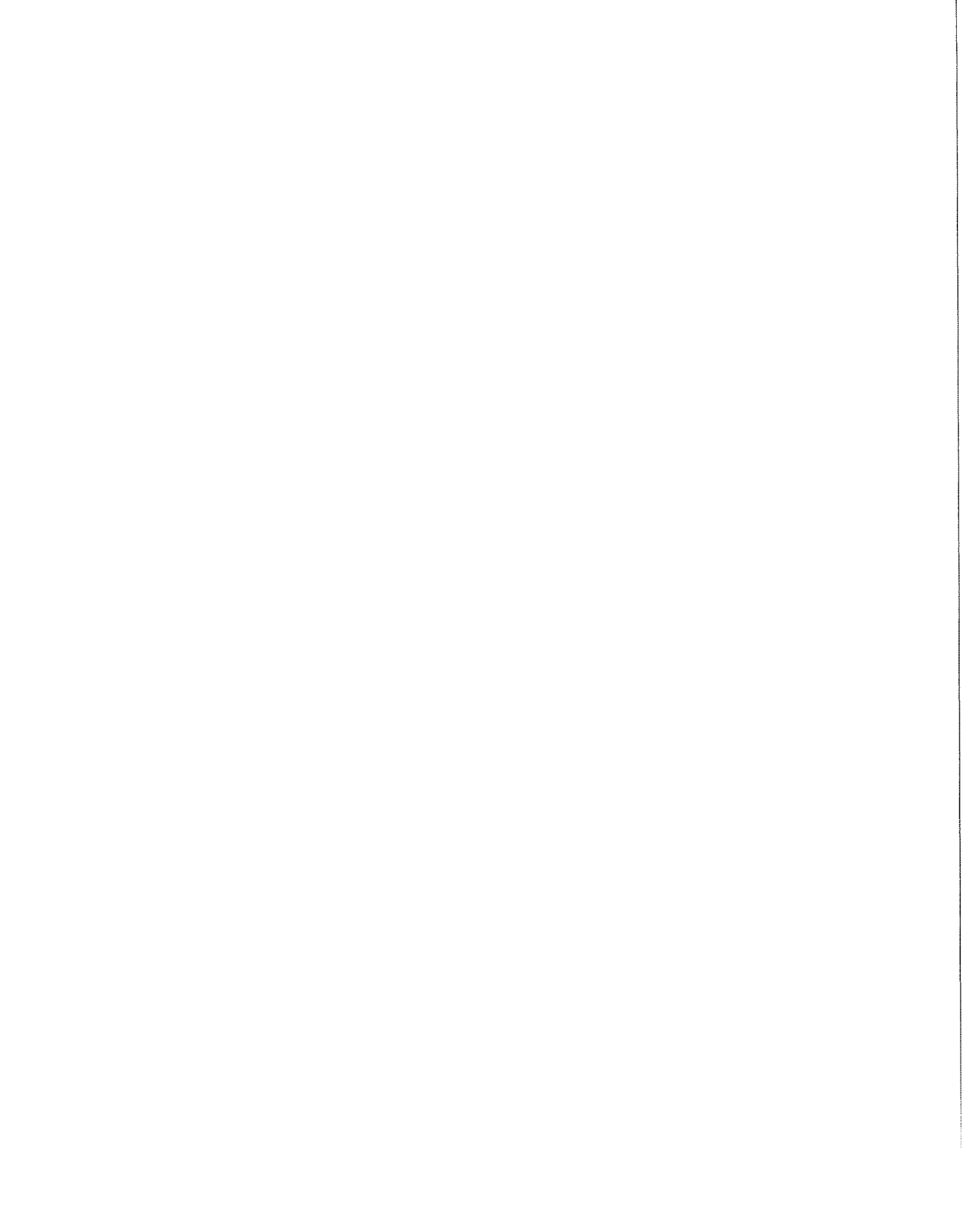
**Minister Counsellor**

**Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations**

**at the Thirty-Second Session  
of the Committee on Information**

**New York, 27 April 2010**

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Mr. Chairman,

1. At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your election to chair this Committee. I would also like to congratulate Mr. Shalva Tsiskarashvili of the Permanent Mission of Georgia upon his election to the Vice-Chairmanship of the Committee.

2. I wish to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to Mr. Kiyotaka Akasaka, Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information for his comprehensive update on the activities of the Department of Public Information (DPI) as well as his report on the implementation of the recommendations contained in General Assembly resolutions 64/96 A and B.

3. The Thai delegation aligns itself with the statement by the representative of Yemen on behalf of G-77 and China.

Mr. Chairman,

4. Thailand welcomes the implementation of various activities of DPI, which are outlined in the Reports of the Secretary-General (A/AC.198/2010/2, /3 and /4). We commend the efforts and achievement carried out by DPI under its three pillars, including strategic communications services, new services and outreach services. We therefore encourage DPI to continue its work in keeping people around the world informed about the UN's work and how it relates to their lives. It is important that the research and studies produced by the UN and its bodies reach as wide an audience as possible, so that they might be put to productive use.

5. In this connection, Thailand commends the network of United Nations Information Centres (UNICs), United Nation Information Services (UNIS) and offices (UNOs). Located in over 60 countries around the world, they have reached out to local populations by working in 48 local languages and produced materials in over 150 languages. Thailand welcomes the decision last year by the General Assembly to establish and fund a UNIC in Luanda, Angola. We hope that, besides serving as an information center for Portuguese-speaking countries in the region, UNIC in Luanda will complement the work of other UN agencies in those countries, such as the United Nations Peace-Building Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS).

6. Thailand appreciates DPI's initiative to extend its network beyond the country level. Throughout 2010, DPI, in cooperation with the European Union, will use selected key international days to promote significant UN thematic issues, for example, universal human rights, the rights of women and children, freedom of the press as well as key global issues such as food, poverty and environment. Thailand urges DPI to explore the possibility of extending this kind of cost-effective thematic communication campaign to other regional and sub-regional groups including ASEAN.

Mr. Chairman,

7. While Thailand attaches importance to traditional ways of information and knowledge transmission, we are also supportive of DPI's efforts to explore innovative ways to reach audiences. In this connection, Thailand encourages the Department to continue its initiatives to raise awareness of international affairs in general, and UN work in particular, among the younger generation. The possibilities of new media, including computer games, and online social networking tools – including YouTube, Twitter and Facebook – should be brought out to the fullest.

8. As a State Party to the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Thailand strongly believes that persons with disabilities should not be deprived of information and communications. We thus commend the Department for its continuing effort to ensure that the UN website is accessible to all. With today's technological advances, especially in computer programming, DPI may further explore additional cost-effective means to generate more materials that are accessible to persons with disabilities, including visual and aural.

Mr. Chairman,

9. Thailand reaffirms our full support for the Committee and DPI. We are confident that, under your able leadership, you will guide us to a successful and fruitful conclusion of this year's session.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.