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Statement

by

**His Excellency Mr. Vitavas Srivihok
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
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**before the Sixth Committee
of the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

**Agenda Item 86:
The rule of law at the national and international levels**

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Mr. Chair,

The Kingdom of Thailand aligns itself with the statements delivered by the Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Kingdom of Cambodia on behalf of ASEAN.

We also express our appreciation to the Secretary-General for his annual report which provides a comprehensive overview of the constructive role of the United Nations in assisting Member States to strengthen the rule of law at all levels.

Mr. Chair,

The rule of law is fundamental to the achievement of all Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 16. But before we can create a truly peaceful and inclusive society, we must first come to understand the following: the rule of law can only truly serve the people, if it is upheld first and foremost by the people themselves.

To that end, we need to bring the rule of law closer to the people. The application of the rule of law has to be relevant to the people. It has to be seen as an indispensable part of everyday life. It has to be seen and understood as a tool of empowerment, protection and justice. A tool that is needed in the orderly existence of their own societies where they can live and thrive.

But more than anything, the rule of law has to reach everyone. It has to be inclusive.

Mr. Chair,

The Bangkok Rules is one of the many examples that demonstrates our ongoing efforts at the national and global level to ensure the rule of law, in an equitable and inclusive society, by reaching out to those who are often furthest left behind. Initiated by Her Royal Highness Princess Bajrakitiyabha of Thailand, the UNODC Goodwill Ambassador for the Rule of Law in Southeast Asia, the Rules aim to preserve human dignity and provide due process of law as well as fair and humane treatment of women who are under custody. It aims to ensure that they can reunite with their family and integrate into society after their release. While

serving their term in jail, female inmates will also be taught vocational skills so that they will not go back to the vicious cycle of committing crimes.

Mr. Chair,

I cannot emphasise enough that the setting of norms and standards at the national and international level alone, will not ensure the rule of law. International law needs to be understood by government officials, non-state actors and individuals alike. In this regard, we commend the UN for its work in disseminating international law to the people, thus helping to advance the rule of law through their work and creating more awareness and ownership of the law.

Thailand commends the UN for its exemplary role in the codification and progressive development of international law, through the convening of diplomatic conferences, and the dissemination of knowledge about the law, to name a few.

As such, Thailand has been pleased to support the United Nations in disseminating international law to the people, through the co-hosting of UN Regional Courses in International Law for Asia-Pacific. We hope to maintain and further this excellent collaboration with the Codification Division in the future.

Mr. Chair,

Thailand once again reaffirms its commitment to promoting and ensuring the rule of law at both the national and international levels. Strengthening the rule of law will be at the core of our efforts to build a truly inclusive society where no one is left behind.

Thank you.
