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The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Thailand to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs of the United Nations and has the honour to refer to the latter's electronic mail dated 21 February 2020 inviting the Member States to submit their written statements for a consultation on full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peacebuilding.

In this regard, the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Thailand has further the honour to inform the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs of the United Nations that the Royal Thai Government recognizes the importance of the 2020 Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture. The outreach to the Member States on this matter is therefore most appreciated.

Please find enclosed herewith "Thailand's views on full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peacebuilding", which Thailand hopes will contribute to the above-mentioned review process.

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Thailand to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Thailand
to the United Nations, New York.

30 April B.E. 2563 (2020).



Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs of the United Nations,
NEW YORK.

Thailand's views on full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peacebuilding

1. General comments

This year, the United Nations commemorates the seventy-fifth anniversary of its founding at a time of great disruption for the world, compounded by an unprecedented global health crisis with severe political economic, and social consequences. It is an opportunity to reflect on past achievements and to prepare ourselves for the great and unconventional challenges that lie ahead, in particular in the area of peace and security.

Peace and sustainable development are two sides of the same coin as sustainable development is key to sustaining peace and vice versa. As women make up more than half of the world's population, they are key contributors to peace and development. Achieving gender equality, by enhancing women's participation in leadership and decision-making roles, including in the area of peace and security, and prioritizing women's empowerment and their capacity-building in all dimensions, is thus a necessary foundation for a peaceful and sustainable world. Thailand believes that appropriate approaches need to be taken to unlock the full potential of women and to attain sustainable peace and development.

The ongoing reform initiatives by the Secretary-General, together with this comprehensive review of peacebuilding architecture, the implementation of the Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) and the twentieth anniversary of the United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, while distinct in nature and scope, are ultimately linked to one another, as they share the common goal of conflict resolution and sustainable peacebuilding.

2. Role of women

First, it is important to systematically institutionalize women's participation in all peace processes. They are 'agents of change' through whom women's and girl's specific needs and gender discrimination are addressed at every stage.

Thailand calls for greater participation of women in all stages of the peace process and also encourages the inclusion of the women, peace and security agenda in policies and programmes for the protection of women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence before, during and after armed conflict. We also encourage the creation of greater and wider spaces for women's participation in peacebuilding, SSR and DDR initiatives, and the entire post-reconstruction process.

More efforts should be made at local, national, regional and international levels to ensure that women are well informed and equipped to participate in peace processes. Capacity-building and training in this respect is thus important, and international and regional assistance would be instrumental in realizing this goal.

In particular, post-conflict peacebuilding unlocks opportunities to lay a foundation to promote sustainable socio-economic restructuring toward sustainable development based on gender equality, including but not limited to equal pay for work of equal value, prevention of

domestic violence, access to education and economic resources, and participation of women in politics, public service, security forces, decision-making processes and other areas. For our part, Thailand is a country where women have long played a role in peace, security and development. Today, Thai women hold executive and leadership positions in business, education, charity, non-governmental organizations, civil society, and of course, politics.

Second, promoting a culture of peace and prevention is key.

We recognize that the Women, Peace and Security Agenda (WPS), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), and SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions) are interconnected and mutually complementary. Concerted efforts from the multilateral and national levels to substantively link the WPS and SDGs agendas would be essential to the promotion of a culture of peace and prevention. By including women in all processes, a society can achieve sustainable peace with an integrated, inclusive approach incorporating development and human rights for all. Therefore, it is also imperative to educate and empower people, detect and prevent armed conflicts, and sustain peace through a cross-sectoral, comprehensive, and integrated approach.

Thailand urges all stakeholders, especially the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), to continue addressing the root causes of armed conflicts such as poverty, discrimination, gender inequality, social injustice, economic, and social exclusion of persons and communities vulnerable to and at risk of radicalization, violent extremism, and terrorism.

Third, we wish to emphasize the role of women as effective agents of change, particularly as caring and empowering peacekeepers and peacebuilders, as justice makers and as key players in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Thailand currently deploys 14 female peacekeepers in three peacekeeping operations (UNAMID, UNMOGIP and UNMISS). From our first-hand experiences, these female officers can leverage on their capacity to reach out to local vulnerable groups, especially women and children, in order to build trust and improve civilian protection. The female officers can also empower women, children and those in vulnerable situations to become ‘agents of change’ themselves. This way, a community would have a higher potential to co-create sustainable solutions and ultimately achieve sustaining peace.

In this regard, peacekeeping and peacebuilding must be viewed in the broader spectrum of conflict prevention, management, and resolution. From that perspective, Thailand encourages close coordination and engagement between host Governments, peacekeeping missions, and the PBC, especially in developing necessary capacity and institution-building in accordance with the national priorities.

The rule of law and access to justice is an important pillar to sustainable peace and development, to economic growth, and of course to human rights. The rule of law and socio-economic development requires cooperation from every sector of society, including women. Thus, Thailand encourages the PBC to continue its efforts to provide a platform for the relevant public and private sectors and civil society to collaborate, share knowledge, and ultimately support the rule of law and promote access to justice in their own way.

Thailand also strongly stresses the importance of ensuring that the rights of women and children are promoted and protected, and that supporting policies and legal infrastructure are in place to enable their active participation in the society, including in decision-making processes. In this regard, the PBC should advocate the capacity-building of stakeholders in providing legal service to women with a view to create gender-sensitive justice system.

Fourth, we need stronger partnership and a more coordinated approach.

Thailand supports the strengthening of multi-stakeholder partnerships at all levels. Cooperation between the United Nations and the regional and local actors, because of their comparative advantages, cultural and historical understanding, can be critical to the successful implantation of peace processes, especially in addressing the underlying causes of the conflict in the country where the United Nations operates. We also need to work with other potential players such as the private sector and relevant civil society organizations, including women's organizations, in ensuring successful conflict prevention.

To strengthen the partnership, two key issues must be addressed, namely funding and capacities. Adequate, predictable, and flexible mechanisms should be put in place to ensure sustained engagement. The United Nations can also provide the needed capacity-building support for the regional and sub-regional organizations in the area of peacekeeping, peacebuilding, and conflict prevention. We also further emphasize the importance of regional and sub-regional collaboration in training and capacity-building efforts to exchange views and information on conflict resolution, and post-conflict peacebuilding, especially humanitarian assistance and women's participation.

Fifth, gender-mainstreaming efforts in the PBC's Gender Strategy must continue to be prioritized across the United Nations' peace agendas.

We also need more women serving in peace operations from peacekeepers to senior leadership both at the Mission and the Headquarters. At the same time, Thailand recognizes that gender mainstreaming at the international level must begin at the national level. The United Nations and Member States will thus have to do their respective parts to attain this common objective.

Thailand reiterates the critical role of the Peacebuilding Support Office in supporting the PBC in mobilizing needed resources, including by exploring innovative and multi-partners financing solutions for peacebuilding activities. In this regard, Thailand also supports the discussion on holding an annual session examining progress in the implementation of the Peacebuilding Commission's Gender Strategy and its financing solutions. The focus of this exercise should be on ways forward, and how the PBC's Gender Strategy can be more effectively implemented to truly make a difference on the ground.

Finally, ensuring gender equality for the benefit of all means the inclusiveness of the peace process.

Beyond the immediate public health risks of COVID-19, the political and socio-economic consequences of the crisis put women and children at heightened risk of abuse, neglect, and violence. Thailand recognizes that unconscious discriminations towards vulnerable

groups can lead to unintended use of harmful stereotypes. At the same time, there are no excuses for violence against women and children, and law enforcement must be strengthened in these difficult times.

We urge all stakeholders to promote positive gender roles to everyone's benefit, taking into account female perspectives and avoid harmful stereotypes around women's and girls' roles. More broadly, we must build the systems to support women's leadership in the society. The PBC should also enhance its activities for equal participation of women in economic recovery schemes, in line with the PBC Declaration on women's economic empowerment for peacebuilding.

3. Way forward

To ensure that the review of peacebuilding architecture will lead to full deliberation, policy improvement and implementation are needed on the ground. Thailand believes that the Commission's final report should contain a clear proposal on the follow-up process. Such process should be transparent and open to all relevant stakeholders

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