



**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

**H.E. MR. DON PRAMUDWINAI
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THAILAND
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

AT THE THIRTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION

NEW YORK, 5 MAY 2009

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to, first of all, congratulate you upon your election to the Chairmanship of the Committee. My congratulations also extend to the members of the Bureau.

I wish to take this opportunity to express my delegation's appreciation to Under-Secretary-General Kiyotaka Akasaka for his comprehensive statement on the ongoing and future work of the Department of Public Information (DPI), and to the Secretariat staff for their efforts towards achieving the objective of reaching out to the public and raising their awareness of the work of DPI and UN as a whole.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement of G-77 and China delivered yesterday by the representative of Sudan on behalf of the Group.

Mr. Chairman,

Thailand is pleased with the Reports of the Secretary-General (A/AC.198/2009/2, /3 and /4) which outline the activities of DPI in the past year. We commend the work of the Department in support of the three pillars of the UN, namely peace and security, development, especially on the MDGs, and human rights. We would like DPI to continue its work on all of these priority themes as well as on the urgent issues of global concern such the financial and economic crisis, food and energy issues, and the outbreak of the H1N1 influenza. We are also pleased to learn that DPI has featured thematic communication campaigns on important areas, such as the question of Palestine, violence against women and Africa, with a particular focus on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

Thailand encourages DPI to continue working closely with DPKO and DFS to promote a better understanding and greater global attention on the issue of peacekeeping operations, which is one of the most prominent parts of the UN activities. It is important that member countries and the public should be able to receive accurate and up-to-date information on this matter.

In addition, Thailand supports the implementation of the zero-tolerance policy on the issue of sexual exploitation and abuse. We are pleased to learn about the work of DPI, jointly with the Conduct and Discipline Unit, on a web-based database on the process of all sexual exploitation and abuse cases, in order to enhance its transparency, while respecting the privacy of UN personnel as well as victims.

Mr. Chairman,

Thailand is encouraged by the initiatives of the Department in employing new means to reach out to the untapped audience such as the use of blogs, YouTube, and Facebook. Such initiatives will help to raise awareness among young people from

different parts of the world about international affairs and the work of the UN, and to provide them with space to voice their opinions on these global issues. Thailand also fully supports a Global Model UN, as a forum for youth to learn, discuss and debate on international affairs, to be held in Geneva later this year.

As a State Party to the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Thailand notes with satisfaction the progress made by DPI to ensure that the UN website is accessible by persons with disabilities, in order to make the UN web-based contents reach the widest audience possible, and welcomes the final version of the Web Accessibility Guidelines for UN website.

Disabilities aside, Thailand is encouraged by the newly launched website of an integrated Civil Society Organizations (iCSO) system initiated by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). This is indeed an added breeze of fresh air to the world of database and information coordination of UN agencies and non-governmental organizations. We hope that DPI, through its various communication tools, will further promote the use of such important database and enhance its cooperation with civil society organizations.

Mr. Chairman,

With the advancement of new technology, the UN can now directly reach out or, in other words, the worldwide public can instantaneously gain access to the UN through various channels. The new media, such as the Internet, have increasingly become convenient means of communications that people can read, listen and watch the progress of UN activities. Concurrently, the UN must maintain the utilization of traditional forms of media for many more who do not possess resources for and access to the electronic media. Even for those who can access the Internet, there remains a digital gap that the UN must take into account. Modern technology does not always render efficiency or effectiveness. It could, however, present an obstacle for those at the different levels of technological advancement.

Mr. Chairman,

To this end, Thailand pledges our support and readiness to work cooperatively and constructively with the Bureau, fellow members of the Committee and also DPI. We are certain that, under your able leadership, you will guide the Committee towards a successful conclusion for this year's session.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.
