



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THAILAND
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Statement

by

H.E. Mr. Yongyuth Yuthavong

Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand

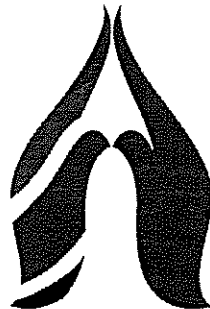
before the 59th session of the Commission on the Status of Women

**Agenda Item 3: Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on
Women and to the twenty-third**

**special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000:
genderequality, development and peace for the twenty-first
century”:**

New York, 9 March 2015

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Building Bridges for Partnership
THAILAND 2017-2018
Candidate for the UN Security Council

Madame Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, Thailand wishes to align itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, as well as the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Brunei Darussalam on behalf of ASEAN.

Madame Chairperson,

I would like to begin with a personal note as to why I think this conference is very important for Thailand's future. My grandmother did not have any formal education at all, since the society at that time did not believe in women education. A widow at a young age, she managed to bring up seven children, making sure that they all had access to good education. My mother had education up to junior high school level, an improvement over my grandmother. Also a widow at a young age, my mother managed to

bring up five children, providing education up to the highest level to which they aspired. My sister is a physician and highly successful as pharmaceutical business manager. Improvement over three generations of my family convinces me that the Thai society, as others worldwide, can rise to far higher achievements and prosperity if we give priority to improvement of women education, and their access to career and other opportunities.

Madame Chairperson,

Beijing+20 recalls the occasion when Thailand chaired the NGO Forum of the Beijing Conference twenty years ago. We have come a long way since then. The Platform for Action became a reference point in the formulation of our policies for women, as seen in the current Women's Development Plan under the 11th National Economic and Social Development Plan (2012-2016). The Plan adheres to the principles of the Convention on Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Declaration, the Millennium Development Goals, the Millennium Action Plan for the Advancement of Women, and principles of human rights in general.

Moreover, a number of laws have been reviewed or enacted in recent years in order to improve gender equality and benefit for women. The draft Gender Equality Bill, approved by the National Legislative Assembly, criminalizes discrimination among the sexes and genders, and explicitly recognizes gender diversity. Earlier laws also give options to women to adopt titles or family names according to their preferences. The rights of women in marriage, divorce, child guardianship as well as in asset management have also been appropriately recognized by various laws.

Since 2012 the Thai Cabinet has approved paid leave for male government officials whose wives have given birth, in order to take care of the new mothers and babies. The private sector will also be required to introduce paternity leave, and to raise awareness on the importance of a father's role before and after birth. I don't know what penalty is given when the fathers just goof off, but surely they are aware of nature's law that new mothers have fierce instincts!

Some more recent policies on gender issues are, for examples, several measures with the aim to boost the safety of women such as lady train service, lady parking areas and lady taxi service. Thailand joins the international community in strongly condemning all forms of violence against women, and reiterates our commitment to

eradicating such violence. The Protection of Domestic Violence Act was enacted in 2007 to guarantee comprehensive protection and assistance for victims as well as penalty measures against perpetrators. One-stop crisis centers with multi-sectoral services have been set up nationwide to provide comprehensive assistance for victims. Additionally, Thailand also joins the international community in launching campaigns, which aim at raising awareness and changing attitude which are the underlying causes of violence against women.

Madame Chairperson,

The Government has declared zero tolerance to human trafficking and its nurturing conditions, including corruption and complicity. In the policy statement delivered to the National Legislative Assembly in September 2014, Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-ocha announced that combating human trafficking, including women trafficking, is a top priority.

A high-level Policy Committee on Combating Trafficking in Persons and Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing, chaired by the Prime Minister, has adopted the 5P strategy to address the

issues, namely, policy, prosecution, protection, prevention and partnership with international agencies, both governmental and NGOs.

Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, together with other agencies, are addressing the problems of trafficking of women at the root causes, by increased surveillance of illegal activities concerning human trafficking along border areas, together with development assistance to neighbor countries to prevent labour exploitation and trafficking of women for sex industries. Special effort has been put into prosecution and prevention of corrupt practices by officials, and into protection of, and assistance to, the victims, including provision of shelter, legal and interpretation services, job opportunities, rehabilitation and repatriation programmes.

Madame Chairperson,

Thailand celebrated the International Women Day with a big gathering of women and men to honour those who gave special services to the cause of women empowerment and gender equality. In ending, I would like to echo our Prime Minister who, on this

36/
39

occasion, gave an address in which he said that the government would make utmost effort to improve the lives of Thai women, especially those in disadvantaged positions, through better education and livelihood. Let us try our best to achieve these aims, not just for the women of Thailand but of the whole world.

I thank you, Madame Chairperson.

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