

**Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security
October 2014, Security Council Chamber**

*Statement by **Mr. Bamrungphong**, Permanent Mission of **Thailand** to the United Nations*

Thailand welcomes this opportunity to discuss once again the issue of women and peace and security. We appreciate the comprehensive concept note (S/2014/731, annex) prepared by Argentina, outlining key issues for today's discussion. We also thank the Secretary-General for his latest report (S/2014/693). Our sincere appreciation also goes to the speakers who provided informative briefings.

Thailand associates itself with the statements of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and of the Human Security Network to be delivered this afternoon.

Displaced women and girls often bear the brunt of any conflict. Their plight is often made even worse by the risk of gender-based violence and sexual exploitation. To address effectively the issue of displaced women and girls requires a comprehensive strategy that integrates security, humanitarian, development and gender perspectives. As a country that has hosted many hundreds of thousands of displaced persons from neighbouring countries in the past decades, Thailand would like to share with the Council our experience and views in that regard.

First and foremost, we must ensure the rights, safety and well-being of displaced women and girls. Against that backdrop, Thailand supports the efforts of the United Nations to mainstream gender perspectives into peacekeeping operations, to increase the number of female peacekeepers and to provide training on gender sensitivity before deployment. Thai female military observers and police officers have served in various United Nations missions in Darfur, in Liberia and in Haiti. We hope that more Thai female officers can join other United Nations missions in other parts of the world. The increasing presence of female humanitarian staff also contributes to a more secure, safer environment for women and girls. Thailand supports the zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse committed by United Nations personnel. It is tragic that protectors should turn into perpetrators themselves. In the case of such crimes, we call for a timely response, a transparent investigation and an end to impunity.

The prevalence of gender-based violence in conflict and displacement settings continues to be of grave concern. Measures to protect displaced persons from sexual violence are therefore crucial and need to be put in place immediately. Thailand recently established a legal assistance centre as well as a sexual and gender-based violence committee in the temporary shelters with the support of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to assist those in distress and to educate them about their human and legal rights.

Limited access to basic humanitarian services adds to women and girls' vulnerability. Therefore, in prolonged periods of displacement, we must ensure that women and girls have access to education and health-care services that address their specific health needs. It is essential to provide economic opportunities for displaced women and girls to enable them to become more self-sufficient and less

dependent. Thailand has done that by providing them with a wide range of vocational training and income-generating projects.

Refugees and displaced persons must also be equipped with the necessary skills for their voluntary return with dignity. Capacity-building and development-oriented programmes are essential for their self-reliance during their reintegration or resettlement process. Through such programmes, displaced women and girls can contribute to the reconciliation and reconstruction of their communities, peacebuilding and long-term development. In that regard, Thailand would like to express its sincere appreciation to all development partners, local and international non-governmental organizations and civil societies that have cooperated with our Government in providing assistance to displaced women and girls and to promote their empowerment. My delegation joins previous speakers in welcoming the adoption earlier this morning of presidential statement S/PRST/2014/21.

Thailand is fully committed to implementing resolution 1325 (2000) and any subsequent resolutions on this important issue. Next year will be the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000). To mark the occasion, Thailand and the International Peace Institute will undertake a joint project entitled “Women in mediation and peace processes”, focusing on the challenges and opportunities in translating the commitment of women and peace and security into practice. We also hope that the high-level review of the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) next year will lend even more impetus to the comprehensive and universal implementation of that important resolution.