Security Council Open Debate on the Maintenance of International Peace and Security:
Interdependence Between Security and Development
11th February 2011, Security Council Chamber (GA-TSC-01)

Statement by H.E. Mr. Norachit Sinhaseni, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand to the United Nations

As the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica indicated this morning, I am speaking today on behalf of the Human Security Network, which comprises Austria, Chile, Costa Rica as Chair, Greece, Ireland, Jordan, Mali, Norway, Switzerland, Thailand and Slovenia, and South Africa as an observer.

Let me also extend my sincere appreciation to you, Madame President, for convening this open debate of the Council. Security, development and human rights are the three interdependent pillars of the United Nations system. The Human Security Network feels strongly that the Council should consider this interdependence when formulating peacekeeping mandates. This would enhance the effectiveness of peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts in promoting sustainable peace and development.

The Network is a group of developed and developing countries united by our belief in using a people-centred approach to address interrelated challenges. Every individual should be guaranteed freedom from fear and freedom from want, with equal opportunities to develop their human potential. Achieving and balancing these two pillars of human security will help to build a lasting foundation for effective transition from conflict, sustainable peace and meaningful, people-centred development.

That said, we are equally convinced that no attempt to establish security today can ignore the essential role of human rights. Security, development and human rights all depend on one another. It is difficult to achieve one without the other. In particular, respect for human rights in each and every country is an essential contribution to peace and security on the national, regional and international levels. We believe that it is essential to recognize this.

Over the years, the experience of the United Nations in peacekeeping operations and subsequent post-conflict peacebuilding and development has shown that security, development and human rights are inextricably linked. This has revealed that sustainable development and promoting human rights help to address the root causes of conflict, as acknowledged in the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Promoting development through the reduction and prevention of armed violence" (A/64/228).

Therefore, a comprehensive approach to security means that post-conflict peacebuilding must be closely linked to the primary responsibilities of the Council. There is a broad understanding today that peacekeeping and peacebuilding are not a linear process but should go hand in hand. The various actors in these fields are obliged to cooperate and coordinate closely. In this regard, we welcome the current efforts of the Secretariat to develop an early peacebuilding strategy for peacekeepers, which would also help to facilitate a smooth transition from peacekeeping missions to other forms of United Nations engagement. We must also explore further how the Council can also consider future development priorities early on.

The Network recognizes that the mandates of the Council, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council are clearly separate. At the same time, that does not mean we should refrain from pursuing coordination and system-wide coherence within the entire United Nations system. Overall coordination with financial institutions is also key.

National ownership must also be a core element in all peacekeeping and peacebuilding mandates and missions. Peacekeepers come and go, but only national participation, involvement and ownership from all segments of society, particularly disadvantaged groups such as women and children, can create the sort of organic development that will sustain long-term peace. Better integration of all these dimensions of security can also result in the greater inclusion of women and those groups previously excluded from decision-making processes. The promotion of human rights and the strengthening of the rule of law are essential in this context.

The Brazilian presidency of the Council has drafted a very concise concept paper for today's open debate (S/2011/50). It has framed our discussions well while pointing the way forward in a clear manner. The

Network wishes to share its view on a key action identified in the concept paper.

We believe that the Council must increasingly make a habit of considering the root causes and socio- economic dynamics of all conflict situations on its agenda. It should be encouraged to interact more through informal dialogue with relevant stakeholders during the whole cycle of peacekeeping missions. This means, in particular, interaction with the affected countries, the troop- and police-contributing countries, and key financial institutions, as well as drawing on the advice of the Peacebuilding Commission.

This interaction and coordination need to be enhanced. We should explore what formal linkages can be established to ensure that the Council can more actively and systematically take into account a comprehensive picture of the causes of conflict and sustainable ways to address those causes.

Members of the Network have the common objective to promote the full development of human potential and the ability of people to live in dignity, free from fear and free from want. Both security and development are therefore integral components of our common vision and objective. We fully support taking this agenda forward in the Council.

Lastly, in my national capacity, let me state that Thailand sees development as key to promoting human security, potential and dignity. Our policies reflect this recognition. As a police- and troop-contributing country, Thailand is actively engaged with the recent deployment of more than 600 infantry soldiers in Darfur who, as I speak today, are being joined by a further 200 troops to meet the full complement of 800. Our naval vessels are also currently involved in patrols off the coast of Somalia. We look forward to doing our part to strengthen the effectiveness of the Council- mandated role and to promote a more integrated and comprehensive assessment of conflict situations.