

Security Council Open Debate on Peacebuilding in the Aftermath of Conflict
Wednesday, October 13, 2010

Statement by H.E Mrs. Siriporn Chaimongkol, Minister Counsellor of Thailand to the United Nations

Let me begin by thanking you, Sir, for having organized this timely debate. Thailand would like to commend the Secretary-General for his excellent reports on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict (S/2010/386) and women's participation in peacebuilding (S/2010/466). The Thai delegation would also like to align itself with the statement delivered by the representative of Bangladesh on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

On this occasion, Thailand would like to emphasize a few aspects of peacebuilding that we believe to be crucial to its success and conducive to women's participation in the process.

While post-conflict societies, at least initially, may require and rely on assistance from the international community, fostering national ownership is of paramount importance to the success of peacebuilding. Institutions of governance and operational mechanisms must be developed not only to conform to international standards, but also to reflect local needs and conditions. Moreover, national capacity must be developed in the early stages to ensure prosperity and the sustainability of peace and security.

If peace and security are to be sustainable, it is necessary to address the root causes of conflict. Often, this means creating a new sense of shared purpose and common values for post-conflict societies. This is a task best left to the national leadership, but should be encouraged where possible by the international community.

Predictable, timely and sufficient national and international support is also essential to the success of the peacebuilding process. In this connection, Thailand welcomes the ongoing international review of civilian capacity. The review should contribute considerably to narrowing the serious gap in national and international capacities, and thus to ensuring a smooth transition from conflict to peacemaking, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and development. Thailand also appreciates the Secretary-General's efforts to strengthen civilian capacities in the global South and among women.

Thailand firmly believes that participation in all peacekeeping, peacebuilding and development will contribute significantly to long-term and sustainable peace and security in post-conflict societies. Since it believes that women's aspects of peacemaking, mostly men who participate in conflict, it is important to encourage the role of women in order to help stabilize post-conflict environments and restore the fabric of society. In this regard, Thailand takes note with appreciation of the Secretary-General's action plan for gender-responsive peacebuilding as a concrete step to women's empowerment in post-conflict societies.

Peacebuilding is a complex and multifaceted task. As we approach the end of our period of membership of the Peacebuilding Commission Organizational Committee, Thailand hopes that we have contributed in some small way to the work of the Commission, and that it will lead towards a more efficient, flexible and comprehensive approach to peacebuilding challenges in post-conflict situations around the world.