

**Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security**  
**November 30th 2012, Security Council Chamber**

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

Let me first commend India, as the President of the Security Council for the month of November, for convening this important open date on women and peace and security. We also thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report (S/2012/732) and Deputy Secretary-General Eliasson and Under-Secretaries-General Bachelet and Ladsous for their statements.

Thailand is a country where women have long played a role in peace and security. Today, Thai women can be found in executive and leadership positions in every area of activity, including business, education, charity, non-governmental organizations, civil society, and of course, politics. Thailand has also been active in promoting the role of women in society.

In implementing resolution 1325 (2000), Thailand established a subcommittee on women and the promotion of peace and security. A wide range of activities have been carried out, from raising awareness of women's rights to the exchange of views on legal issues aimed at ensuring equal access by women to justice and sound legal advice. In that connection, we are grateful to UN-Women for co-organizing a workshop on the subject of women and peace and security in Bangkok on 15 October. It was a valuable opportunity for representatives of UN-Women and Thai participants to engage in an extensive exchange of views, experiences and best practices.

Thailand shares the view of the Secretary-General that we should move from a culture of reaction to a culture of prevention. To that end, we have established the Thai Women's Empowerment Fund to address the lack of economic opportunities for women by offering low-interest loans to help women develop their skills and careers. The Fund can also be used to strengthen women's civil society networks and enhance women's role.

When the situation demands it, Thai women can also be effective agents of peace, as caring peacekeepers and peacebuilders. We were pleased to see the role of female peacekeepers mentioned in several parts of the Secretary-General's report. Thailand also attaches great importance to enhancing the role and participation of women in peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations. There are currently many Thai female military observers and officers serving in various United Nations missions. They are well trained in international humanitarian law and international law with regard to the rights and protection of women and children. Pre-deployment training for our peacekeepers, with the assistance of the International Committee of the Red Cross, also focuses on the issue of gender sensitivity in order to facilitate the building of trust.

Another milestone for women in Thailand was the admission of female cadets, in 2009, to the century-old Police Cadet Academy. After graduation, the first batch of female cadets will be assigned the important task of dealing with cases involving violence against women and children. Those female cadets were also inspired by the great work of their senior female police officers who participated in nation-building processes in Haiti and Timor-Leste. It is our fervent hope that those Thai female cadets will join United Nations missions in different parts of the world.

Finally, let me emphasize the necessity of the universal implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and relevant resolutions and their translation into practice. For our part, Thailand reiterates its readiness and commitment to join the efforts of the international community aimed at ensuring that the voices of women will be heard, their rights respected and protected, and their concerns and needs addressed. Their role and contribution with respect to peace and security must be both enhanced and recognized.