Statement

by

Delegation of Thailand

at the Third Committee

of the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

Agenda Item 64: Report of the Human Rights Council

13 November 2013, New York

Building Bridges for Partnership
THAILAND
ASEAN Candidate for the UN Security Council 2017 – 2018
Statement by the delegation of Thailand

Item 64: Report of the Human Rights Council, 68th Session of the UNGA, 13 November 2013, 15.00 - 18.00 hr., Conference Room 1, CB

Mr. Chair,

Thailand would like to begin by expressing our appreciation to His Excellency Ambassador Remigiusz Achilles Henczel, President of the Human Rights Council, for the report and presentation. We welcome this important opportunity to hear from the President of the Human Rights Council of the work the Council and current human rights challenges around the world, which require our united efforts to respond to these urgent needs to prevent violations and protect the rights for all. We wish to reaffirm our full cooperation with the Council and our support for the work undertaken by the President’s office. Thailand adheres to the core principles of the Council to carrying out its work in an impartial and objective approach. We therefore extend our appreciation to the President of the Human Rights Council for his efforts in this regard.

We also would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the member states which are newly elected or reelected to the Human Rights Council. We believe in their constructive role and contribution to the work of the Council.

Mr. Chair,

The Human Rights Council has proved its role in promoting and protecting human right at international, regional and country level, through its various mechanisms. We support the continuous efforts to further improve
the work of the Council itself, as well as strengthen relevant international human rights instruments. Such example can be illustrated by our participation in the Working Group in drafting the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communication procedure.

Therefore, we recognize the OHCHR’s role in supporting the work mandated by the Council. We take positive note of the OHCHR’s efforts to rethink ways and means to effectively respond to challenges faced, including conducting constant reviews of relevant programmes and projects with a view to helping states strengthen their national human rights systems, as well as the functioning of the treaty bodies and special procedures mandate holders.

Thailand believes that for human rights to be sustainable, it has to be founded on the principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity, inclusiveness, democratic values and the rule of law. It has to be people-centred with all sectors of the society involved in the promotion and the protection of human rights. This is what H.E. Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, underlined at the 24th Session of the Human Rights Council in September this year, in particular highlighting the need to protect vulnerable groups, including women and children.

Mr. Chair,

Given the widening scope of OHCHR’s work, we believe that its regular budget should be increased to allow it to carry out its mandate properly. We, therefore, urge our colleagues in the Fifth Committee to give due consideration to the issue. At the same time, more effective priorities of
its work and programmes could increase OHCHR's efficiency. However, such an approach should not negatively impact field operations, which are crucial if we are to effect positive change on the ground.

In addition, the importance of voluntary contribution should not be over emphasized. We welcome the increase in un-earmarked contributions to the OHCHR, which has given the Office more flexibility in managing its resources.

Mr. Chair,

Thailand has closely followed the development of the OHCHR’s draft thematic strategies for the year 2014 – 2017, which is closely linked with the work of the Council and the support to be given in this connection. It is of essence to find balance between the economic, social and cultural rights, and the civil and political rights.

As we move closer to the Millennium Development Goals and the discussion of the Post - 2015 Development Agenda is ongoing, Thailand is of view that human rights, rule of law and development are intertwined and indivisible. Hence, it is important to mainstream human rights and rule of law in our approach to achieve sustainable development goals. Here, we wish to extend our support to the President of the Human Rights Council’s statement of the 22nd Session of the HRC to mainstream human rights throughout the UN system.
Mr. Chair,

We wish to take this opportunity to once again thank all members, particularly the core group, for supporting the annual resolution on technical cooperation that was adopted during the last council session by consensus.

Given the importance Thailand attaches to this issue, during the 24th Session of the Council, the Prime Minister of Thailand has announced Thailand’s first contribution to the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights.

We view that technical assistance and capacity building will assist states to advance human rights at national and regional levels, including through the implementation of recommendations provided by different mechanisms and the fulfillment of their human rights obligations.

Mr. Chair,

Thailand has been actively engaged in the work of the Human Rights Council in the past three years and is honoured to serve as a member and past President of the Council. Given the importance that Thailand attaches to human rights domestically, regionally and internationally, we have presented our candidature for the Council for the second term in 2015 – 2017. In the interim, we will continue to work closely with the Council and all members to ensure that the rights of all peoples are equally promoted and protected.

We thank you.

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