



# PERMANENT MISSION OF THAILAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**Intervention by Mr. Pravit Chaimongkol, Charge d'Affaires, a.i., Permanent  
Mission of Thailand to the United Nations, New York  
At the High-Level Dialogue "From Vision to Action: the Road to Implementation of  
the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities"  
United Nations, New York, 30 March 2007**

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Mr. Chairman,

Today, we have reached another historic milestone. It is a milestone that marks a step forward in our quest for recognition of equality in rights and dignity of each and every human person, both in principle and in practice. Thailand is proud to be a part of this historic moment.

We would like to particularly pay tribute to millions of persons with disabilities in Thailand and elsewhere, who I believe are celebrating this moment as well. The Thai Government has this message for you:

"Dear friends, we would like you to know how much we appreciate your inspiration and tireless dedication. Without you, we would not have such a comprehensive and innovative Convention like we have today. The participatory nature of its drafting process and the speed with which it was negotiated would certainly ensure that this Convention becomes a lasting benchmark. You are the key to its success. But above all else, today is the day that your unyielding spirit triumphs."

Mr. Chairman,

The commitment of Thailand to the cause of promoting rights and dignity of persons with disabilities has always been strong and consistent. We were there at the very beginning of this Convention right up to its adoption. And we are here again today to reaffirm our commitment to this cause.

As a country that has signed the Convention on the very first day that it is opened for signature, we pledge that we will do everything we can to turn the noble vision that this Convention embodies into action. We will spare no effort to ensure that this Convention would be implemented so that it could bring about meaningful changes on the ground. By signing, we have shown that we are serious about human rights and dignity. And that we will always strive for a better standard of life and well-being of all Thai citizens.

It is the hope of the Thai Government that, once all the necessary domestic legal processes have been completed, we would be able to ratify the Convention. As of today, ground works have already been laid down to bring domestic legislations in line with the provisions of the Convention, and to ensure better protection for, and empowerment of, persons with disabilities in Thailand. Policies and institutional frameworks, such as the Office of Empowerment for Persons with Disabilities, have been put in place to ensure that our actions live up to the vision of the Convention.

Mr. Chairman,

We are now entering the next chapter of this historic journey. There are many challenges ahead of us. But we are confident that, with all stakeholders working together, we will again succeed in turning noble vision into meaningful actions.

Thank you.