

Without reconciliation, we cannot move beyond the political conflict in our society, which is deeply-rooted.

And without reform, we cannot build a strong democracy. That is why we have identified 11 key sectors for reform under the Road Map.

Of course, implementing the Road Map is a joint effort – by the Government, the National Legislative Assembly, and the National Reform Council.

But for this process to be credible, it must be truly inclusive and engage all segments of society.

In addition, we also wish to listen to – and learn from – our friends in the international community. We believe that we can benefit from your best practices and successes.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I wish to assure you that Thailand remains fully committed to democracy and democratic values.

But the true democracy that we want must be more than just elections. It must be based on good governance, accountability, the rule of law and respect for human rights.

So we must turn this crisis into opportunity. And we must strengthen the foundations of our democracy for future generations.

While we will benefit from the experiences and insights of other democratic societies, it is up to the Thai people to move this process forward.

That is why many of us in this room today – from the National Legislative Assembly and National Reform Council – will listen with great interest to what you have to say.

I am sure that your thoughts and advice will enrich our discussions in the days and months ahead.

In this connection, I wish to thank Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, for kindly accepting our invitation and agreeing to give a keynote address to this Seminar.

All of us here look forward to a fruitful discussion. We also look forward to taking our dialogue forward in the months to come.

Thank you.
