



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THAILAND
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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Remarks

by

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at the High-Level Dialogue on

International Migration and Development

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**(Madame President of the General Assembly,
Mr. President of the Economic and Social Council,
Mr. Secretary-General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Representatives of International Organizations,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is a privilege and honour for me to participate on behalf of the Royal Thai Government in this High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development today. This initiative indeed constitutes the full recognition by the United Nations that international migration is a pressing issue affecting countries across the globe and thus needs comprehensive, concerted and coherent global responses in order to effectively address it.

Thailand would also like to express our appreciation for the Secretary-General's report on international migration and development, which highlights the inter-connection between international migration and development as well as the question of how this phenomenon can benefit countries, be they countries of origin, transit or destination of migrants. We also welcome the report of the Global Commission on International Migration, which provides a comprehensive overview of international migration in various parts of the world and proposes a substantive list of useful recommendations on effective migration management.

**Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,**

Thailand is in a unique position of being, all in one, a country of origin, transit and destination. We have thus accumulated a great deal of experiences and lessons, both positive and negative, on migrations issues. Allow me to share with you some of our thoughts about the migration **issues**.

Firstly, Thailand believes that international migration is overall a positive global phenomenon which, if properly managed, can enrich societies and cultures and contribute significantly to economic growth and development in both countries of origin and countries of destination. It is on such premises that the Royal Thai Government has since 2004 embarked on the regularization scheme for approximately 2 million illegal migrant workers from our neighbouring countries who were already present in Thailand. This has resulted in 1.3 million migrant workers being registered and in most of them being issued work permits which entitle them an access to basic health services. On the outbound front, the Government has been facilitating Thai nationals seeking legal employment opportunities abroad by providing, for example, many pre-departure training programmes to develop workers' skills necessary to meet the demands of labour markets abroad.

Second, we are of the view that the rights-based and victim-centred approaches are essential to any migration management efforts since people on the irregular migration, especially women and children, are highly vulnerable to being trafficked and abused. In this regard, Thailand has attached great importance to intensifying efforts to protect the fundamental human rights

and human dignity of migrants, irrespective of their documentation status. Migrant workers are empowered to exercise their rights and to have access to resources and remedies through the Thai Government's provision of information, training and education. We have also been promoting legal practices on recruitment of migrant workers, and ensuring access to effective legal remedies for migrants.

Third, we share the views of many previous speakers that multi-dimensional aspects of international migration and development must be taken into account in formulating an effective national migration policy. International migration is linked with diverse policy issues, including development, human rights, human security, trade, health, as well as national security concerns. Therefore, a coherent, comprehensive and integrated migration policy involving multi-stakeholders is crucial to attaining our mutual goal of maximizing the benefits of international migration and minimizing its negative effects.

Fourth, international migration cannot be managed effectively in isolation of international cooperation, simply because it involves more than one country and concerns more than one global issue. Thailand fully recognizes the importance of partnership, capacity-building, and sharing of best practices at all levels, particularly bilateral and regional levels, in this respect. We have played an active role in the regional consultative and cooperation frameworks; namely, the Intergovernmental Asia-Pacific Consultations on Refugees, Displaced Persons and Migrants (APC), the Regional Ministerial Conference on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime or Bali Process, and the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (COMMIT). We have initiated and concluded several bilateral MOUs with countries in the Mekong Sub-region to address the migration-related problems, for example, the MOUs with Cambodia and the Lao PDR on Bilateral Cooperation for Eliminating Trafficking in Children and Women and Assisting Victims of Trafficking, and the MOUs with Cambodia, the Lao PDR and Myanmar on Cooperation in the Employment of Workers.

Lastly, Thailand supports the Secretary-General's proposal to consider the possibility of developing a Global Consultative Process within the United Nations with active participation of all stakeholders to maintain the dialogue on international migration after this High-Level Dialogue. We hope that the proposed mechanism would effectively serve as a potential inter-governmental forum to sustain the momentum of the political will and develop the basis for future cooperation on international migration laid down by this High-Level Dialogue.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.