

Country Statement by the Delegation of Thailand

Mr. Supachai Iemsuwan
Deputy Permanent Secretary,
Ministry of Interior
during Agenda Item 11: General Debate
at the 108th Session of the IOM Council
on Wednesday 29 November 2017
in Room XVII of the Palais des Nations in Geneva

Madam Chairperson, Distinguished delegates,

1. On behalf of the Thai delegation, I wish to congratulate madam chairperson on your election and express our appreciation for the long-standing support and assistance that the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has provided to Thailand.
2. I also wish to thank Director-General William Lacy Swing's leadership that brought IOM many notable successes, including IOM's transitioning to a related organization of the United Nations.
3. Thailand is confident that IOM's enhanced status will strengthen the organization's work in addressing global migration in a more effective and comprehensive manner, with the well-being of the peoples at its heart.

Madam Chairperson,

4. Based on **equitable international burden-sharing and full respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, and dignity**, Thailand stands ready to work with other Member States, UN agencies, as well as international and regional organizations in the GCM process. Thailand also supports IOM's role in the GCM's implementation and review process.
5. On our expectations for the GCM, firstly, the GCM should be a **government-led, but not a government-only process**. With support of the IOM, Thailand will hold a stakeholders' consultation in Bangkok in January 2018 to provide updates and seek inputs from all sectors of society on how to align Thailand's interests with the collective goals of the GCM.

6. Second, the GCM should be forward-looking, realistic, and practical. Thailand's connectivity policy seeks to promote a common growth initiative for ASEAN that is supported by increased legal pathways for labor migration. Through bilateral labour MoUs with its neighbors, Thailand seeks to ensure safe labor migration from country of origin to country of destination.
7. In Thailand, migrant workers enjoy the same rights as those of Thai nationals. Registration scheme for undocumented migrants from neighboring countries has also reduced migrants' vulnerabilities, especially from human trafficking. Our Universal Health Coverage (UHC) policy has also provided access to healthcare and health insurances to both documented and undocumented migrant workers, thus ensuring Thailand's comprehensive health security.
8. Lastly, the GCM should be an effective **instrument for fostering and advancing the linkages between development and migration.**
9. In this connection, we wish to reaffirm our commitment to cooperate with the IOM, other Member States, and Observers in promoting safe migration and developing a forward looking and practical **Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration for** the sustainable benefit of the migrants, as well as home and host countries.

I thank you.

(401 words)

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Foreign Policy and Global Health Initiative (FPGH) Statement

at the 108th Session of the IOM Council
28 November - 1 December 2017, Geneva, Switzerland

Madam Chairperson,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Foreign Policy and Global Health Initiative (FPGH), comprising of Brazil, France, Indonesia, Norway, Senegal, South Africa, and my own country, Thailand as Chair of the FPGH in 2017.

We appreciate the leading role of the IOM in promoting international cooperation on migration and its invaluable support during the negotiation process of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration or the GCM, in close cooperation with all relevant agencies, including WHO.

Addressing the health needs of migrants and their families and promoting their right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health in accordance with national contexts are important to create more equitable and inclusive societies, and to achieve universal health coverage in line with the vision of the 2030 Agenda – to leave no one behind.

The FPGH recognizes the positive contribution made by migrants for inclusive growth and sustainable development, for which good health is a prerequisite, as well as the benefits and opportunities of safe, orderly and regular migration. At the same time, forced displacement and irregular migration in large movements often present complex challenges.

The FPGH further believes that with strong political commitment and actions, supported by international cooperation, migrant health aspects can be integrated into national policy and driven by inter-sectoral coordination and cooperation amongst all relevant stakeholders.

In this regard, the FPGH encourages the use of the framework of priorities and guiding principles to promote the health of refugees and migrants, prepared by the World Health Organization.

The international community recognized the need to strengthen international cooperation on migration when we adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants in 2016. Now is the time to work collectively in a spirit of shared responsibility to deliver those desired outcomes. The FPGH strongly supports mainstreaming migrants' health in the GCM and hopes that the conclusion of the Global Compact next year will adequately address the health of migrants and their families to create healthier societies worldwide.

I thank you, Madam Chairperson.

(346 words)
