

**Statement by the Delegation of Thailand**

**H.E. Mr. Sek Wannamethee**

**Ambassador and Permanent Representative**

**during Agenda Item 13: General Debate**

**at the 109<sup>th</sup> Session of the IOM Council**

**on 27 November 2018 from 15.00 – 18.00 hrs.**

**Conference Rooms 2-3-4, Centre International de Conférences Genève (CICG)**

*(5 Minutes)*

**Mr. Chairman, Distinguished delegates,**

1. At the outset, on behalf of the Thai delegation, I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. António Vitorino, the new Director-General of the IOM. Thailand is confident that under <sup>his</sup> your able guidance and leadership, the IOM will continue to fulfill its founding principles of “Humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all”. I would like to reaffirm Thailand’s readiness and commitment to working closely with the IOM on migration and its related issues. I would also like to thank Ambassador William Swing, the former DG for his tireless efforts and his humbleness in delivering his mandate over the past ten years.
2. In a world of enhanced connectivity and borderless society, migration has become more complex and challenging, demanding equitable international burden-sharing and full respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and dignity. There is no one-size-fits-all-solutions to migration depending on domestic, regional and international contexts. However, Thailand believes that through shared responsibility and collective efforts, we can find sustainable and long-term solutions to migration issues by taking into account the interests of migrants, host countries, and all stakeholders.
3. In view of this, Thailand welcomes the conclusion of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) negotiations last July and looks forward to joining like-minded states in adopting this historic inter-governmentally negotiated agreement, in Marrakesh, Morocco next month. We hope that the GCM will help bring about a better management in all dimensions of international migration and provide positive impact on migrants – all of which will contribute to achieving sustainable development.
4. Looking forward to post-Marrakesh, we welcome the establishment of the United Nations Network on Migration, with the IOM as a Coordinator, that will ensure effective and coordinated UN system-wide support to Member States in their GCM implementation, follow-up and review as well as engage with various stakeholders to realize the objectives set forth in the

Compact. We would also encourage the IOM to continue working towards universalization of this Compact in the future because it is only then that we can ultimately create safe, orderly, and regular migration.

**Mr. Chairman,**

5. Thailand has shared constructive and cooperative partnership with the IOM in addressing and managing the influx of migration in our country and the region. I am pleased to highlight key developments in our collaboration.
6. Firstly, given children are the most vulnerable groups in any forms of migration, Thailand has placed highest priority on the protection of migrant children under the no child detention policy. During the past year, we had close consultations with all stakeholders, including the IOM, in drafting the MoU on Alternative to Detention for Children among concerned government agencies. The MoU is now being finalized and expected to be completed by the end of the year. The MoU will ensure that migrant children and their mothers are placed under the care of the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security or certified NGOs. We look forward to the support from the IOM in implementing this MoU, particularly in the areas of health care, resettlement and assisted and voluntary return.
7. Secondly, Thailand has zero tolerance policy towards trafficking in persons and has always advocated for the eradication of forced labour in all sectors especially in the fishery industry. Through a Public-Private-Civil Society-Partnership, many large Thai businesses have now voluntarily adopted ethical recruitment and Good Labour Practices programmes while the civil societies have helped disseminate information about the rights of migrant workers. As part of the Bali Process, Thailand works closely with regional partners and relevant international organizations, including the IOM, in combatting trafficking in persons and people smuggling within the region. We count on IOM's continued support in this regard.
8. We also have cooperation with the IOM on other issues, such as the support to migrants and host communities on mental health and psychosocial support, and the facilitation in the successful returns of the first two batches of Myanmar displaced persons along Thai-Myanmar border.
9. Finally, Thailand will officially assume the ASEAN chairmanship in 2019 under the theme "Advancing Partnership for Sustainability". This theme widely covers the promotion of partnership with international organizations, including the IOM in addressing migration issues with a view to leaving no one behind.

**Mr. Chairman,**

10. In closing, the world is in need of finding durable and sustainable solutions for migrants. Migration is not an issue to be solved but it has a human face and flesh and blood behind it. The Global Compact on Migration is a step forward in realizing this effort. Thailand stands ready to join hands with international community and the IOM to translate these goals into reality.

**I thank you.**

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