

*Statement by H.E. Ms. Suphatra Srimaitreephithak,
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand
to the United Nations Office at Geneva*
at the General Debate during the 113th Session of the IOM Council
2 December 2022
(3 mins.)

Chairperson,
Director-General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

1. I would like to join others in congratulating Chair and the bureau members on the election to the meeting. Thailand aligns itself with the statement previously made by distinguished representative of the Republic of Korea on behalf of the Asia Pacific Group.
2. We thank the Director-General for a very comprehensive updates on migration situations around the world and commend relentless dedication of IOM to provide timely humanitarian assistance to migrants fleeing from conflicts or affected by disasters, climate change or other crises. We also recognize IOM's active roles in promoting the implementation of the GCM and facilitating its review at the IMRF earlier this year.
3. Thailand welcomes the agreement reached on IOM budget reform with some built-in flexibilities. We hope that the increased budget and the improved core structure will enable IOM to effectively and efficiently respond to the growing demand for its services, enhance accountability and oversight of the organization, and ensure that its activities are fully aligned with the interests and needs of countries in which it operates.
4. As the host of an IOM Country Mission and a Regional Office, Thailand stands ready to support and facilitate the work of these offices in any way we can, including through the conclusion of the new host country agreement that appropriately reflects IOM's status as a related agency within the UN System.
5. As a major destination of migrant workers in Southeast Asia, Thailand attaches great importance to the enhancement and improvement of regular pathways. We recently concluded the revised MoU on Labour Cooperation with our neighbor countries which are the sources of migrant workers in Thailand. Together with the resumption of cross border movement, this has led to the entry of around 200,000 migrant workers since the beginning of May this year.

6. Such regularized pathway paves a solid foundation for migrant's access to social security and basic services. Nonetheless, health services and education are accessible to all regardless of their migration status, as per our policies on universal health coverage (UHC) and education for all. As a friend of UHC and GCM Champion Country, we stand ready to share our experiences and cooperate with other countries to further promote right to health for all, including migrants.

7. On another front, prevention and combatting of human trafficking and smuggling, and victim assistance remain high in our Government's agenda. In this regard, IOM has played a role in the development of our National Referral Mechanism and the Operation Plan to combat smuggling of migrants, as well as in capacity building for officers from relevant agencies.

8. We look forward to continuing partnership with IOM on issues of mutual interests.

I thank you.

(451 words)