

**Statement by the Delegation of Thailand**  
**H.E. Mr. Rongvudhi Virabutr,**  
**Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative**  
**Chargé d' affaires a.i.,**  
**Agenda Item 10: General Debate at the 114<sup>th</sup> Session of the IOM Council**  
**27-29 November 2023**  
*(3 minutes)*

Chairperson,  
Director General,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,

Thailand aligns itself with the statement of the Asia-Pacific Group and wishes to congratulate you, Madam Chair, and the members of the bureau on the election to this meeting. We also wish to welcome Director General to her first IOM Council.

We thank Director General for her presentation and welcome her initiatives and priorities including on climate change and its impact on human mobility, promoting legal pathway, and strengthening partnerships, with an overall emphasis on innovation, data, and people.

For Thailand, **regular pathways** is one of the most important tools to manage migration governance. Not only does it help prevent migrants from falling prey to trafficking, smuggling or other forms of exploitation, it also allows migrants' access to services and benefits that they are entitled to. Thailand will continue to explore expanding and improving regular pathways, particularly through **bilateral MoU on Labour Cooperation with countries** of origin and countries of destination, and to work with IOM on this area of mutual interests.

Thailand continues to attach importance to **protection of victims of trafficking and vulnerable migrants**. We appreciate IOM's continued support for the government in **taking care of migrants in the detention centers and government's shelters**, as well as IOM's efforts in facilitating conversation among the government and relevant embassies and consular posts in Bangkok to promote **cooperation for safe return, referral and protection of victims of trafficking by transnational criminal syndicates**, particularly those involved in online scams. We would like to also thank IOM for organizing capacity-training courses in areas including countering trafficking in persons, border management and immigration, in which our line agency officers took part.

We share the view that **data** is key to an evidence-based policy. Therefore, we value the joint review of where we stand in migration management as reflected in the **Migration Governance Indicators (MGI) Report**. We look forward to **co-organizing the national seminar to take stock of its findings and discuss**

**the way forward**, based on the whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches.

Thailand is also committed to implementing the joint project on “**Promoting Evidence-based Migration Discourse and Media Reporting in Thailand**”, which contributes to our pledge at the IMRF in 2022 to promote public perception regarding the positive contribution of migrants.

IOM and Thailand are long-standing partners. As a **host** of an **IOM Country Office and a Regional Office** as well as one of the **GCM Champion countries**, Thailand stands ready to **support** and **facilitate** IOM’s work at national, regional and international levels, including through the upcoming Regional Review of GCM and the making of **the new host country agreement**.

I thank you.

*(435 words)*

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