

Statement by Mr. Chatchai Bangchaud

Secretary General of the National Security Council of Thailand

At the High-Level Segment during the 115th session of the IOM council

26 November 2024, Centre International de Conférences Geneva

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Chairperson,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

1. It is my great pleasure to be in this High-Level Segment on Regular Migration Pathways: a global call for action. Thailand recognizes the role of the IOM in promoting the rights and welfare of migrants.

2. Migration has been a fundamental aspect of human history, **contributing essentially to the security, social, cultural, and economic development of nations**. In this context, regular migration pathways are crucial for ensuring that the movement of people across borders is safe, orderly, and beneficial for both migrants and countries involved.

3. Migration has long been as part of Thailand’s socioeconomic landscape. As a regional hub, **Thailand serves as both destination and transit country, for mixed flows of migrants, from neighboring countries and beyond**. Some came to seek protection, while others look for better jobs and opportunities for lives.

4. In this context, we view **regular migration pathways as crucial means to promote national security and public order**, by ensuring that migrants are properly documented and verified. Regular pathways can also help to **reduce risks of exploitation, trafficking in persons, people smuggling, and other forms of ill treatments**, which are often associated with irregular migration, especially for certain groups such as women and children.

5. Thailand has signed **MOUs with neighboring countries, which are the main countries of origin of migrant workers in Thailand**. These MOUs not only regulate **recruitment, employment, and return of workers**, but also require **pre-departure and post-arrival orientation, to ensure that migrant workers are well informed about their rights and obligations, and access to legal recourse** in case of exploitation or abuse. As a result, MOU migrant workers have better chances to receive protection and assistance, either from their home or host countries or both.

6. Given the situations in our neighboring countries, Thailand has, provided **document to all migrant workers**, to ensure that no one is left behind. Latest, in September this year, the cabinet approved draft Notifications to legalize undocumented workers from neighboring countries by allowing registration for migrant workers in Thailand to stay and work legally, at least until February 2026.

Chairperson,

8. As gaps and challenges in access to the existing regular pathways still remain, Thailand will continue to improve the existing regular migration pathways and explore new alternatives. We fully support the holding of the International Migration Dialogue, as an annual forum for all relevant stakeholders to exchange of views, experiences and best practices in migration management and promotion of migrants' wellbeing and rights.

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