

Statement by Thailand
General Somsak Roongsita,
Secretary-General, Office of the National Security Council
Plenary on Burden and Responsibility Sharing at the 1st Global Refugee Forum
17 December 2019, Palais des Nations, Geneva

**High Commissioner,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,**

1. On behalf of the Royal Thai Government, I would like to thank the Swiss Confederation, the UNHCR and the 5 co-convenors for making this historic first Global Refugee Forum possible.
2. As we witness an increasing number of displaced persons, this first GRF is indeed a crucial opportunity to enhance political commitment and concerted efforts towards sustainable solutions for them, especially in the context of global mixed migration.

Mr. Chair,

3. Thailand has set up the National Working Group to coordinate our national implementation of the GCR and the GCM. We have emphasized on the importance of sustainable solution and addressing vulnerabilities in particular of women and children on the move. Today, I wish to share some of our recent developments and pledges based on the principles of shared responsibility and humanitarianism.
4. At the policy level, *“the Comprehensive Strategy on Resolving Irregular Migrant Problems”* has been developed to realize the systematic and efficient management of illegal migrants, bearing in mind the mixed flow of migration, and taking into consideration the balance between security and human rights.
5. Recognizing the vulnerabilities of women and children on the move, Thailand has adopted the *“MOU on Alternatives to Detention for Children in Immigration Detention Centres.”* *No child shall be detained in detention centre.* This initiative has involved efforts of a number of agencies including NGOs. One year after the MOU adoption, we pledge to strengthen the

capacity of officials concerned to effectively implement it as well as to prepare them for a refugee screening system likely to be in place next year. We therefore welcome the launch of the Asylum Capacity Support Group and hope to utilise this mechanism to support our endeavor.

Mr. Chair,

6. Thailand has long experienced a protracted refugee situation. We have hosted over 100,000 displaced persons from Myanmar over the past thirty years. With the close cooperation from the Myanmar Government, since 2016 over a thousand of these displaced persons have returned home and many more in the pipelines. Thailand pledges to enhance necessary cooperation with relevant parties to move forward the return process in a systematic and sustainable manner. We also pledge to undertake development projects in the receiving areas in Myanmar through the application of the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy and to provide relevant trainings prior to their return to Myanmar, as well as employment opportunities in Thailand for returnees in accordance with our laws and regulations.

Mr. Chair,

7. People become refugees not by choice. No one wants to leave their homes and their loved ones. Thailand will spare no efforts to continue doing our part to pursue sustainable solutions for those in genuine protection need.
8. We look forward to the synchronised and synergised efforts of all stakeholders and concrete commitments to help achieve the goal of a more equitable burden and responsibility sharing.

Thank you.
