

Statement of delegation of Thailand
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Madam Chair,
High Commissioner,
Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the delegation of Thailand, I would like to congratulate Mr. Chairman and the members of the Bureau for your success in steering the current session of the Executive Committee.

Thailand appreciates commitments and efforts of UNHCR in taking care of and finding durable solutions for refugees and displaced persons around the world and in our country.

We heeded the appeal by the High Commissioner for more resources to meet the surging needs of people forcibly displaced, particularly through flexible funding. Hence, **Thailand made an additional contribution of 1 million Thai Baht, unearmarked, to UNHCR**, this year.

Madam Chair,

As we approach the end of the #IBelong Campaign, we are still far from the world free of statelessness. In this regard, Thailand is pleased to see the launch of **the Global Alliance**, as a renewed multi-stakeholder platform to carry on our unfinished mission. We are delighted to join the Global Alliance, and look forward to sharing our experiences and working with all stakeholders.

Over the years, Thailand has made several policy and legislative reforms, with a view to creating **pathways for stateless population** in our country to acquire nationality, or at least residency, and be able to

enjoy their freedom of movement, right to work, as well as access to basic rights and public services, such as healthcare and education, in a manner similar to our nationals.

We are formulating a **new National Action Plan** for the development of legal status and rights of stateless persons and is planning to **expedite the nationality acquisition of a large group of population**, particularly among stateless children born in Thailand.

We look forward to receiving continued supports from UNHCR, UN Migration Network, as well as civil society organizations, in outreaching and providing legal assistance for stateless persons, training for officials, as well as working with mobile registration units to enhance access of stateless persons in remote areas.

Madam Chair,

Thailand continues to host various groups of displaced persons. We appreciate UNHCR and partner countries that render support for protection, assistance and durable solutions.

Since the operationalization of our **National Screening Mechanism (NSM)** in September last year, over 200 individuals have submitted applications, and 7 individuals have been granted the Protected Persons Status.

As a new mechanism, we need continued support from UNHCR, especially to strengthen NSM infrastructure, through training of officers, sharing of information, and interpretation for certain local and ethnic minority dialects. We also engage with other partners, including civil society organizations, to provide assistance to the Protected Persons.

We are thankful for the offer for group **resettlement** of **Myanmar Displaced Persons (MDPs)** by the United States. We are delighted that the first group have already departed, and are hopeful that more cases will be resettled in the near future.

We also thank the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand for accepting **Rohingya** displaced persons.

Thailand remains concerned over the worsening livelihood in Rohingya camps in Bangladesh. Therefore, this year, we made 1.6 million Baht contribution through UNICEF to strengthen education, and through WFP to contribute to food security in the camps.

Madam Chair,

Given the ongoing conflict in Myanmar, assistance and solutions for the Rohingyas, as well as other groups of displaced persons, not only in the country of origin, but also in the host or transit countries in Southeast Asia region, must not be forgotten.

Thailand has upscaled **humanitarian assistance** to the people of **Myanmar** through various channels, including the first cross border assistance in March this year. We have also taken care of more than 56,000 **Myanmar People Fleeing Unrest** (MPFU) who came in several waves so far. We allowed them to stay in “the temporary designated areas” along the border. Thai authorities, with support from local communities, provided them with livelihood necessities. Now, all of them have voluntarily returned to Myanmar. Yet, we continue to prepare for any future influx and explore alternative ways to better assist the vulnerable population in the area along the border.

Madam Chair,

Thailand looks forward to working with UNHCR and the international community to assist refugees, displaced persons, and stateless communities, to ensure that they receive timely and appropriate protection, enjoy their rights, and are given opportunities to thrive and fulfil their potentials for the betterment of themselves, as well as for our countries, regions, and beyond.

Thank you, Madam Chair
