

Statement

Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, Thailand

Committee of the Whole: (b) Social Development

The 79th Session of the Commission: CS79)

May 18th, 2023

The United Nations ESCAP, Bangkok, Thailand

Madame Chair,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Royal Thai Government, it is my honour to deliver this intervention at the seventy-ninth session of the Commission of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on Social Development today. I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm Thailand's commitment to strengthen regional cooperation on responding to climate change and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in our region.

Excellencies,

Climate change has emerged as one of the biggest environmental challenges that increasingly affect social and economic development globally. Its impacts have the potential to threaten development in many countries and further lead to an increase in unemployment, poverty and inequalities in many aspects.

The Royal Thai government highly recognises such consequences and therefore focuses on addressing the issue of climate change along with building immunity for people, especially the vulnerable groups who are most affected such as children, women and girls, gender-diverse groups, older persons, persons with disabilities and low-income family. Thailand's actions target social and economic development along with concrete environmental preservation by integrating the Bio-Circular-Green or BCG Economic Model in all aspects of development.

In addition, please allow me to share some of Thailand's progress on mainstreaming gender in climate change action.

- The Ministry of Social Development and Human Security has partnered with relevant government agencies, private sectors and civil society in organizing International Women's Day every year. And in 2022 it was organized under the theme " Empowering women to make decisions and reduce the impact of natural disasters" and awards were given to women who have outstanding effort and impact on Environmental Conservation and Agriculture promotion.
- The ministry has also driven the ASEAN Women Entrepreneurs Network Strategy which aims to addressing environmental and Climate Change Problems.
- In terms of persons with disabilities, the Disaster Management Plan for Persons Living with disabilities in Thailand (2017-2021) and its one-year extension, has been implemented to improve risk reduction measures, disaster management system and remedy for persons with disabilities

The government continuously promote the social protection system through the implementation of various social welfare scheme such as Child Support Grant, Disability Allowance, Old-age Allowance as well as the promotion of employment and vocational skills training among others.

Madame Chair,

On this note, I would like to express my appreciation to ESCAP for the technical support and good cooperation over the past years and reaffirmed that strong support by ESCAP is essential for advancing the partnership towards sustainable development in Asia and the pacific. And Today's event has obviously demonstrated our shared commitment to strengthen regional cooperation on responding to climate change and moving towards the transformative change and the achievement of the SDGs.

Thank you
