National Statement
Dr. Sarawut Boonsuk, M.D.
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Ministry of Public Health, Thailand
For the Asia-Pacific Population Conference (APPC)
On Wednesday 15 November 2023
at the United Nations Conference Center (UNCC),
Bangkok

Her Excellency Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana,
United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive
Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for
Asia and the Pacific,

Dr. Diene Keita, United Nations Assistant Secretary-
General, and the Deputy Executive Director of the
United Nations Population Fund,

His Excellency Mr. Varawut Silpa-archa
Minister of Social Development and Human Security

Representatives from governments,

Excellencies, distinguish guests, ladies, and gentlemen,
Since the International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo, Egypt, in 1994, Thailand has achieved notable success in economic growth, marked by having the status of an upper-middle-income country in 2011. The country also shows a significant increase in the human development index, rising from 0.78 in 2014 to 0.8 in 2021, making Thailand a country with a very high human development.

Thailand made commitments at the Nairobi Summit, achieved substantial progress in the implementation of the 2030 agenda, and most of its SDG targets. Through the Universal Health Coverage, sexual and reproductive health services have been widely covered at sub-national levels, ensuring no one is left behind, especially women and girls.

However, Thailand is experiencing a rapid demographic transition, with a steadily declining fertility rate of 1.3 in 2023, accompanied by a high dependency ratio. The younger working-age population is more likely to stay single, delay marriage, postpone the age at which they first give birth, and have one or two children, or none. Moreover, the population is aging at an accelerating rate.
Due to these challenges, Thailand has to respond to declining fertility rates. The current government has set the low fertility as a national agenda to promote a higher or maintain the birth rate, where rights and choice of women are the highest consideration.

In the past five years, the country has invested in improving health services, including sexual and reproductive health, health promotion, integrated and coverage of health care services for the elderly, and surveillance and improvement of the physical and mental health problems.

The promotion of a higher birth rate and the implementation of Universal Health Coverage, as recommended by all line ministries through the APPC-Voluntary Survey, require the harmonization of data and coordination among responsible line ministries. Stakeholders need to be equipped with management and analysis skills. Moreover, decentralization of policy planning, implementation, and resource mobilization, with full and equal engagement of stakeholders at all levels is essential to achieve the goal.
With all these strategies and interventions, together with innovations, the Thai population will enjoy their lives and become the quality productive citizen to cherish the future of the country.

Thank You.

Khob Khun Krab.