The Statement of Thailand  
on Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Fourth Review and Appraisal  
of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing

Good morning distinguished participants. I am Suchitra Pittayanorasate, the Director-General of Department of Older Persons, Head of delegations, Thailand. It is my great pleasure to share the progress and challenges of Thailand.

Thailand is projected to become the "aged" society in 2023. In response to this situation, Thailand has implemented many plans and measures, such as, the 20-year National Strategy, and the National Agenda on the Aged Society. These plans are supported by a regular evaluation, consultations with stakeholders, and intergenerational settings.

In the view of development, the Thai government promotes the active participation of older persons in decision-making processes. Thailand also has community-level senior clubs and senior schools. Numerous initiatives are expanding the opportunities for elderly to remain in employment.

The social protection programs that Thailand are currently implementing, for example the Old Age Allowance Scheme, to ensure the coverage.

In terms of health, Thailand adopted many aspects of healthy aging and has implemented Universal Health Coverage Scheme, and homecare. A disability allowance scheme is also available for elderly with disabilities.

In promoting environment, the National Housing Authority provides government support for the housing and living conditions of the elderly.

Overall, national-level research and data on ageing are sufficient yet can be explored further in some frontier issues. Additionally, with regards to the COVID-19, Thailand has prioritized older adults and provided them supports in various ways.

After reviewing all aspects, the following steps can be taken to realize "The creation of an inclusive society for all ages in which older persons"

To enhance a policy implementation ecosystem, the ways forward include; increasing outreach and older person representatives at all levels and enhancing gender equality and the human rights.

The COVID-19 pandemic provides lessons learned, which can be used to strengthen disaster preparedness.

Three key priorities work as key pillars to achieve the goal.

Firstly, is to promote and develop the elderly through boosting capacity and advocate, income-generating activities with policies, and develop a people-public-private-academic partnership for budgetary sustainability, and increase resilience to future disasters and climate change.

Secondly, is the health and well-being through promoting older people's "quality and access", increasing health capacity and resources through sector coordination and gender-sensitive approach.

Lastly, is to ensure a supportive environment. The ways forward include promoting universal design, promote accessible housing designs and funds, create reintegration programs for internal migration, promote usage of digital technology and innovation for older people, and raise recognition of older people.

I am thankful to this event and I also look forward to learning from other countries’ progress and best practices. Thank you.