

Statement by the Delegation of Thailand
Mrs. Kanchana Patarachoke,
Director-General, Department of International Organizations,
during Item 2: Review of migration policies and programmes and their
impact on facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration and on supporting
all dimensions of sustainable development,
on Monday 6 November 2017, 14:00 – 17:00.

Chairperson, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates
Sawasdee Ka,

1. Allow me to first welcome all of you to the Kingdom of Thailand. I also wish to thank all panelists for their informative and thought-provoking presentations.
2. Today's gathering provides a great and unique opportunity for the Asia - Pacific to share, learn, and take stock of our experiences on policies and programmes to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration. It is also a tremendous opportunity to collectively examine the challenges and priorities of our region.
3. Migration is a defining issue of this century. It is global and affects everyone, albeit differently, in countries of origin, transit and destination. Its transcending nature requires a multilateral response and to achieve sustainable development, it must likewise rest on the principles of burden-sharing and non-discrimination, full respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, and dignity for all.
4. In other words, the GCM provides us a historic opportunity to make a difference to redefine what works, what more are needed, and where we will be heading and leaving no one behind.
5. For that matter, Thailand has envisioned the GCM to help deliver the following principles:
6. **First**, GCM should be a high symbol and embodiment of a **whole-of-government, whole-of-society, and whole-of-UN** in substantiating safe, orderly and regular migration. Multi-stakeholders platform is thus a necessary condition towards ensuring mutual understanding and recognition, ownership and partnership. In other words, we see the GCM as a government-led but not government-only process.

7. For our part and with the valuable support of the IOM, Thailand organized two GCM national stakeholders consultation in Tak and Samut Sakorn provinces, and plans to hold a third consultation in Bangkok in mid-December. These meetings provided ample opportunities for all stakeholders representing government agencies, CSOs, academia, the private sector and the UN family to express their views, concerns and recommendations on how to achieve the collective 3 primary goals of the GCM.
8. **Second**, the essence of the GCM should be **forward-looking, realistic, and practical**, mainstreaming the right balance between the needs of states, migrants, local population and stakeholders. It should also nurture good policies and frameworks, while creating more values by expanding legal migration channels, especially for the less privileged, but a majority, unskilled labor migrants.
9. This is where we believe will make a concrete difference. Creating legal pathways for labor migration is important for Thailand. That is why we support establishing as much Labor MoUs with our neighboring countries as possible to ensure a safe labor migration into, and out of, Thailand. We work to ensure that our Labor laws, such as the Royal Ordinance on the Management of Migrant Worker's Employment (B.E. 2560) provide effective avenues of protection on work related or social rights of migrant workers and laborers in accordance with human rights standards, including health, education, welfare and remedy.
10. **Lastly**, the GCM should represent an **effective instrument for fostering and advancing the linkages between development and migration**, preserving the equilibrium relationship between human rights and humanitarian treatment of migrants of all groups on the one hand, vis-à-vis priorities of the nation, local people and businesses on the other. The GCM should thus advance this migration and development nexus from strength to strength by involving the collective partnership of countries of origin, transit and destination.
11. Thailand has therefore paid particular emphasis on job creation, skill development, safe working environment, and protection for all workers. We believe that a healthy worker is a mirror image of a healthy nation. Through our Labour Relations Act of 1974 and the Labour Protection Act of 1998 all migrant workers are thus entitled to the same rights to those of Thai nationals. Our nation-wide systematic registration scheme for undocumented migrants from neighboring countries has reduced migrants' vulnerabilities from falling prey to trafficking and smuggling syndicates. Our Universal Health Coverage (UHC) policy has provided health insurances to both documented and undocumented migrant workers, thus ensuring our society's health security. Above all we provide legal identity to all new born in Thailand regardless of their nationalities and status.

12. I wish to conclude by wishing for the GCM to become a dynamic and sustained process benefiting us all. In this regards, we feel that a follow-up and review mechanism, perhaps one that is similar to the voluntary national reviews (VNRs) for the implementation of the SDGs, may be an option. This review mechanism will facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to providing well-targeted assistance in advancing the next phase of implementation of the GCM and multiplying the beneficial relations between migration and development.
13. Internally we have established a National Working Group on the implementation of Thailand's Commitments made at the Leader's Summit for Refugees and Migrants and the Preparation leading to the adoption of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the Global Compact for Refugees. This mechanism will continue after the GCM adoption next year in order to support and sustain Thailand's whole-of-government, whole-of-society and whole-of-partnership efforts for everyone's benefits for a safe, orderly and regular migration.
14. I thank you very much for listening to our ideas and wishing you all fruitful deliberations over the coming days. Thailand looks forward to be a positive partner in delivering meaningful, practical and innovative inputs for the Intergovernmental Stocktaking Conference in Mexico next month.
15. Khob Khun Ka.

(894 words/ 5 minutes)