

National Statement by THAILAND

(d) Regional cooperation and governance with regards to migration in all its dimensions, including at borders and during transit, entry, return, readmission, integration and reintegration

- Thailand has long experienced economic, political, and social dynamics of migration, which have caused problems of migrant labors who are taken advantage and fall into victim of human trafficking, or insufficient humanitarian assistance and facilitation for illegal migrants.
- Since the national authorities tend to fail to address all groups of migrants effectively, Thailand recognizes the need to address illegal migrants and activities and manage border control in an effective way, so that solution and coordinated measures among agencies and countries concerned could be taken.
- In this regard, Thailand fully supports enhanced regional connectivity, both within ASEAN and with other regions. To safeguard regional connectivity, we need to enhance ASEAN border management cooperation and develop an ASEAN-wide arrangement that can shield our interconnected Community from those who wish to abuse it and, at the same time, facilitate the safe and legal entry and return of citizens from both sides of the borders.
- One example of the regional cooperation on border control that could be highlighted is the **“High Level Regional Conference on Enhancing Cooperation on Border Management in the ASEAN Region: Ensuring a More Interconnected, Safe and Secure ASEAN Community,”** co-hosted by Thailand and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on May 2nd this year in Bangkok.
- The Meeting has exchanged views and best practices on developing ASEAN connectivity and linkages between ASEAN and beyond, measures in addressing trans-border challenges, and non-traditional challenges, such as illicit drugs and precursor trafficking, trafficking in persons, people smuggling and terrorism.
- The Meeting emphasized that border management could reinforce development of greater connectivity and linkages within ASEAN and between regions. This will promote trade, economic growth, and the safety of the border area and its vicinity, to ensure safe and sustainable regional connectivity.
- Safety along the border will not only enable people to benefit from the positive implication of physical and software connectivity, but also prevent negative impact of the illegal movement of people and illicit drug smuggling and other related crimes.
- To this end, Thailand will continue our cooperation not only with the neighboring countries but also with other actors such as the academia, civil society organizations and international organizations for better regional cooperation and governance for the benefits of all states concerned and their peoples at large.
