



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THAILAND
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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Statement

by

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**Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Thailand
to the United Nations**

**for the side event at the margins of
The second International Migration Review Forum (IMRF)**

***“Advancing migrant health and access of migrants to basic services through
multistakeholder collaboration”***

5 May 2026, Conference Room B, UNHQ, New York

Excellencies, Distinguished Participants, Colleagues,

1. At the outset, I would like to thank the WHO and IOM for inviting Thailand to co-sponsor this important side event along with Azerbaijan, Portugal, and Spain.
2. For Thailand, **migrant health matters**. Migrants contribute to our economy, both formally and informally, and across a myriad of sectors, whether services, manufacturing, agricultural or construction. Therefore, when **migrants are healthy, our economy prospers**.
3. As a **GCM Champion Country**, Thailand has given longstanding importance to **promoting access to health services for migrants**. Allow me to share how we have done so.
4. First, we strive to ensure that **access to essential services for migrants are integrated into our national health care policies and plans**. Registered migrant workers in Thailand are covered under the **Social Security Scheme**, and receive similar benefits as do Thai nationals. For migrant workers in the informal sector, including **unregistered migrant workers**, they can utilize the **voluntary Migrant Health Insurance Scheme (MHIS) or Compulsory Migrant Health Insurance (CMIH) Scheme**. The service coverage under these schemes ranges from health promotion, disease prevention and control to maternal health, family planning services and health education.
5. In addition to the available health insurance schemes for migrants, **migrants, regardless of their migration status, are also provided with emergency care** at public healthcare facilities on a humanitarian basis.
6. Second, **timely access to registration allows for timely access to health services for migrants**. Our government has **streamlined registration procedures for migrant workers using digital solutions, or “e-WorkPermit”**, that is available for submission of application 24 hours a day with multi-lingual manuals and platforms, including the establishment of joint service centers with interpreters and 24-hour multilingual complaint services.
7. Third, we have **strengthened partnership and collaboration** with international organizations, NGOs and migrant communities to continue improving migrants’ access to health services, and expanding their coverage. For example, in Thailand, through joint collaboration with NGOs and international partners, the **M-FUND, or Migrant Fund**, was established in 2017 as a low-cost not-for-profit health protection scheme to assist migrants regardless of their migration status along the Thai border.
8. Fourth, we take pride in our migrant-inclusive approach. There are approximately 4,000 migrant health workers known as **Migrant Health Volunteers (MHVs)** trained to provide essential health services and raise awareness on health-related issues
9. Recently, at the local level, the Ministry of Public Health also established the **first Border Health Learning Center (BHLC) in Tak Province** - a province

situated along the Thailand-Myanmar border - **to enhance access to healthcare for the population in the border areas, the majority of whom are migrants.**

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10. We believe it is important to ensure that **GCM Objective 15: to provide access to basic services for migrants**, is effectively implemented and further strengthened.

11. One important lesson that can be drawn from our past experience is that **“no one is safe until everyone is safe”**. This was particularly true during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. Therefore, it is crucial that the international community continues to support the advancement of migrant-inclusive approaches under the GCM. On our part, we will continue to ensure enhanced access to health care and services for migrants.

12. Thank you very much.
