

**Statement by the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand
at the Opening Ceremony
of the Human Rights 75- Leaders segment
12 December 2023**

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**High Commissioner,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,**

01 Greetings from Bangkok.

02 It is my honor to join you today, as we celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This Declaration provided the foundation for international human rights law, and reaffirmed **the universal value** of human rights for all persons worldwide.

03 75 years have passed and **UDHR has stood the test of time**. It remains relevant as it continues to guide us in our efforts to **address challenges** we are facing today.

04 The world is facing multiple challenges --- be they peace and security, development, or the environment. These challenges have placed a large part of the global population at risk of being left further behind.

Excellencies,

05 That is why it is important that we **use this opportunity to chart a way forward, to further advance human rights for present and future generations**.

06 Allow me to share some views on this way forward.

07 First, we need to **strengthen human rights architecture** at all levels.

- Our aim must be to **provide better protection**, especially for **the most vulnerable**.

- **Political will is key. Broadest participation** helps ensure that measures respond to the actual needs of the people, and **bring results on the ground**.

- Too much **polarization** in international fora will hold us all back. **Multilateral fora** like this, should be used for hearing out and reaching out, in order to settle diverging views, find solutions, and enhance cooperation.

08 Second, we need to **ensure that the Human Rights Council and other human rights mechanisms are well equipped**.

- We commend the Council's recent **recognition of the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment**, as well as discussions on the **impact of climate change on human rights**. Environmental concerns and climate change hinder not only the enjoyment of human rights, but also the livelihood and survival of countries and peoples.

09 Third, we need to **utilize technology and innovation to advance human rights**. Technology can be used to ensure wider access to basic rights, such as the right to education and the right to health. It can also be used to promote human rights education.

10 At the same time, we should be mindful of the risks posed by technologies. We need to build open, free, and secure digital future, while utilizing technology to advance human rights for all.

11 Fourth, **technical cooperation and capacity building** can help promote and protect human rights. Often times, human rights violations can occur from the lack of knowledge and capability. By sharing best practices and learning from one another, we can help close those gaps and strengthen human rights implementation.

12 Fifth, I would like to reiterate the importance of **regional human rights mechanisms**. Such mechanisms help bridge the gap between national and international human rights protection systems, and ensure that all persons can find protection. Cooperation between the UN and regional mechanisms are vital, and need to be strengthened.

13 Lastly, **everyone can make a difference**. Constructive and meaningful engagement is crucial. We must work together despite our differences.

14 For this reason, **Thailand is presenting our candidature for membership of the Human Rights Council for the term 2025-2027**. We stand ready to work with all partners and the international community, to further promote and protect human rights for all persons.

Excellencies,

15 I wish all of you a successful and fruitful event.

16 Thank you.

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