



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

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Statement

by

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at the ECOSOC Development Cooperation Forum

Session III: Building momentum for effective social protection measures

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- Thank you Dr. Broning, for your excellent role as the moderator and the kind introduction.

- At the outset, I would like to emphasize that Thailand always puts human resources at the heart of development.

- We believe that human is the agent of change for sustainable development. Therefore, strengthening social protection is at the very top of Thailand's development agenda, domestically and internationally.

- 2023 marks the mid-point of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and manmade conflicts have widened the development gap between developing countries and made it more difficult for least developed countries to sustain the criteria for graduation. Due to current global upheavals, gaps in social protection are even harder to be closed.

- Nonetheless, we took this opportunity to prioritise and re-define our international development cooperation policy to narrow the gaps, build resilience for the poor and vulnerable groups, and to put the SDGs back on track. Now, we seek to foster human security in 4 areas (4S), namely (1) Food, (2) Job, (3) Health, and (4) Environment & Energy.

- We have also embraced more digital technology and innovations in combination with our homegrown approach, the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (or commonly known as SEP), as our development model that puts an emphasis on local wisdom and people-centered development as foundations for effective social protection measures.

- We believe that SEP can significantly contribute to sustainable development and reduce social protection gaps. Our SEP for SDGs approach can provide applicable, adaptable, and affordable solutions to many development challenges. We have shared it with other developing countries and it has proved successful with many partner countries.

- A concrete example of how Thailand puts human at the center of development is the establishment of our Universal Health Coverage (UHC). The Thai Government's success in providing UHC to its citizen illustrates the level of importance that Thailand

has placed on social protection along our development path. At home, everyone can access basic health care services they need without having to worry about crippling financial burdens.

- At the global level, we share our good practices with other developing country partners. Since 2019, Thailand has supported the Development Project on Universal Health Coverage (UHC) between Thailand and Kenya which aims to boost the Kenyan Government's capacity to develop a Universal Health Coverage system.

- Other showcases of our social protection development projects include skills development project for migrant workers along the borders and the project on Cross-border Particulate Matter (PM) management with stakeholder countries.

- For more of Thailand's good practices and inspiring success stories of development cooperation, you can visit our website <https://tica-thaigov.mfa.go.th>

- In response to resources limitation, we have enhanced our development partnerships with both traditional donors and emerging providers through South-South and Triangular Cooperation, just to name a few: USAID, JICA, KOICA, GIZ, AFD, MASHAV and LuxDev. This allows us to pool knowledge, expertise, innovations, and resources to deliver improved and effective results.

- Furthermore, we are expanding collaboration with emerging donors from the Global South - the so-called South-South-South cooperation, such as TIKA (Türkiye) APCI (Peru) and AMCI (Morocco). Just like the on-going efforts in the North-South-South (NSS) cooperation, I think South-South-South (SSS) initiatives should be further explored and encouraged.

- Thailand stands ready to work with development partners, both in the Global North and the Global South, to drive forward development cooperation in building effective social protection through our 4S initiative for positive and tangible outcomes.

Key takeaways / policy recommendations

- To have impactful partnerships in development cooperation, we need a “SMART” way of working. By “SMART”, I mean the way we should conduct development cooperation to create our desired impacts: S: stands for sustainability;

M: stands for multi-stakeholder cooperation and coordination, People Public Private Partnerships in particular; A: stands for action-oriented; R: stands for resource efficiency; and T: stands for tangible outcomes.

- For global problems such as climate change, poverty and pandemics, no single country can tackle them alone. By working together in partnership, we can overcome these challenges. And we should do it through SMART development cooperation.

- Thank you.