



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

**136 EAST 39th STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10016
TEL (212) 754-2230 • FAX (212) 688-3029**

Statement

by

His Excellency Dr. Suriya Chindawongse

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand

to the United Nations

at the Sixty-eighth Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

under priority theme :

“Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective”

New York, 19 March 2024

Madam Chair,

1. It is my great pleasure to address the 68th session of the Commission on the Status of Women that highlights, once again, the inter-linkages between gender equality and sustainable development.

2. Poverty exacerbates gender inequality and vice versa. Women and girls are disproportionately affected by poverty in many parts of the world. 383 million women and girls estimated to live on less than 1.90 USD a day, compared to 368 million men and boys.

3. Gender responsive policies are thus needed to bring transformative change to achieve gender equality and sustainable development.

4. That is why Thailand implements the Women Empowerment Principles as reflected in our five-year National Action Plan for Women's Development (2023 – 2027). This is to achieve a vision of a society that embraces gender equity and equality.

5. What are some of our key policy priorities to realize this vision?

6. First is investing in human capital development for women in all aspects – education, career advancement, health. We provide access to education for all, including non-Thai nationals regardless of immigration status. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) education in women and girls is prioritized to reduce the current gap of 7.42 percent between men and women with higher education in STEM.

7. A National Women's Development Fund to enhance career development has benefitted approximately 14 million women and 60,000 women's groups since 2005. And health services that responds to women's health needs is an integral part of our Universal Health Coverage and community health care system.

8. Second is strengthening institutions through gender responsive policies and tools. This has been reflected in our budgeting process. In fact, the Thai constitution stipulates that the different necessities and needs related to gender should also be taken into account in making proposals and decisions with regard to budget allocations.

9. Third is enhancing women's leadership and political participation. In 2021, Thailand is among the Asia-Pacific countries with the highest proportion of leadership roles in business, with over 29% of CEO and 45% of CFO positions held by women.

10. In terms of political participation, many activities on women's capacity building to promote women in leadership have been organized. Women's Assemblies at provincial and national levels have also been conducted annually to bring voices of women into policy formulation.

11. Fourth and lastly is promoting innovation and technology to achieve gender equality and women empowerment. For example, we have a Thai People Map and Analytical Platform (TPMAP) which is a gender-disaggregated data analytics tool that detects areas with population living in poverty to assist in providing support for women and girls left furthest behind. Policies and actions could then be adjusted accordingly.

12. A Human Security Emergency Management Centre is also available 24 hours a day to provide rapid response to those facing social problems.

13. In addition, Thailand provides a combined paid and partially-paid parental leave of up to 6 months for women, in line with WHO recommendation for breastfeeding for newborn. There is also flexible parental leave for men to encourage them to be involved in childcare and development, and thereby help reduce women's double burden.

14. To conclude, Madam Chair, the journey towards gender equality is a marathon. It requires dedication, determination, long-term commitments and collective action, within and among countries.

15. Thailand remains resolute in our efforts to work with all partners towards achieving gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls. It is our hope that concrete recommendations to this effect will also be reflected in the outcomes of the Summit of the Future.

16. Thank you.

1.
