

Thailand's commitments and pledges on human rights

1 At the national level, Thailand pledges to:

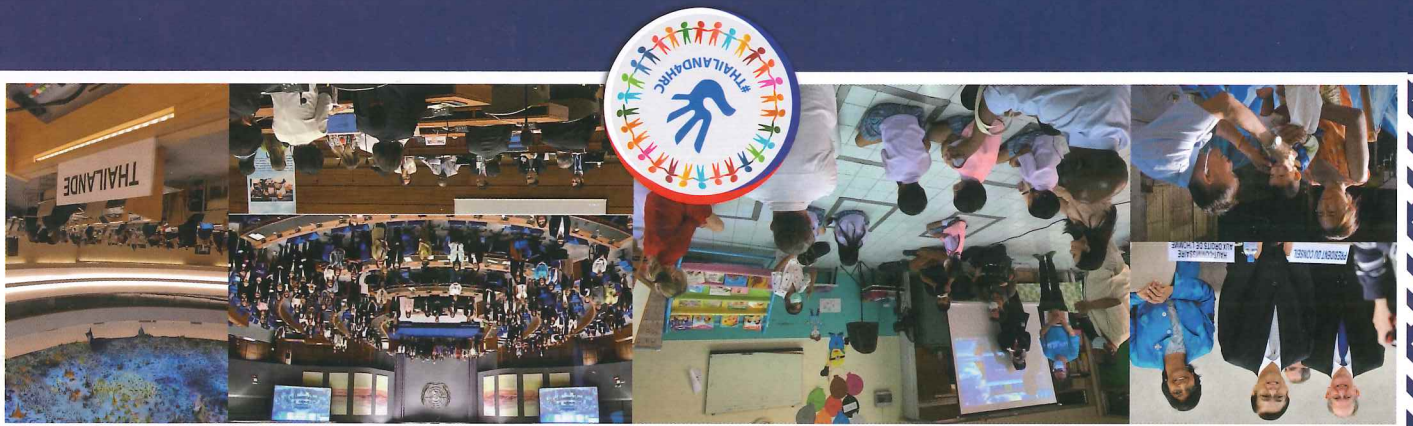
- Explore the possibility to become party to, or where possible expedite ratification process of, additional international human rights treaties¹;
- Take steps towards developing and revising legislation, policies and regulations to be in line with international human rights treaties to which Thailand is party, and ensure effectiveness of the national implementation;
- Take into account the recommendations received from the treaty bodies, Special Procedures of Human Rights Council, and the recommendations accepted by Thailand during the Universal Periodic Review in the formulation and implementation of policies and legislation;
- Promote constructive dialogue between the government and other stakeholders, including civil society and local communities, with a view to advancing the promotion and protection of human rights in the country;
- Apply human rights-based and people-centered approach in developing and implementing law, policy, as well as the National Economic and Social Development Plans (NESDP), including the 13th NESDP, taking into account the views and the needs of the vulnerable and the most affected, with a view to reducing inequalities and promoting more inclusive growth;
- Promote transparency, independence and effectiveness of the National Human Rights Commission in line with Paris Principles;
- Continue to make progress in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in all spheres of life.
- Continue its efforts to reach out to those who might be furthest behind, such as persons with disabilities, prisoners, stateless persons and migrants, to promote and protect human rights, and build an inclusive society where all, including youth, can realize their full potentials and partake in relevant decision-making processes, particularly post-COVID-19;
- Promote the right to health for everyone living in the country and enhance access to affordable health services for vulnerable groups in line with the universal health coverage;
- Advance the role of business in the promotion and protection of human rights in the country, *inter alia*, by developing the 2nd National Plan of Action on Business and Human Rights, and creating dialogue between and among States, businesses, academia, civil society and local communities;
- Develop policies and legislation to promote and protect human rights in the digital and online spaces in light of new technology and to work with relevant partners to address challenges such as disinformation, misinformation and right to privacy while continuing to bridge the existing digital divide in the society; and
- Continue its efforts to contribute actively to promoting human rights in the context of climate action and disaster risk reduction, in particular by encouraging participation of local communities and those in vulnerable situation.

¹ At present, Thailand is party to 7 core international human rights treaties namely International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

Thailand's candidature to the Human Rights Council (HRC)

for the term 2025 – 2027

“Advancing human rights: making a real difference”



2 At the regional level, Thailand pledges to:

- Continue to take an active role in strengthening and contributing to the advancement of human rights in the region through regional human rights mechanisms, especially the **ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR)**, including through exploring the advancement of more protection role of AICHR, and **ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC)**, and cooperation with civil society.
- Cooperate with UN agencies and other partners to promote **technical cooperation and capacity building in the field of human rights** in the region, especially on the rights of the child, women and persons with disabilities.
- Take a leading role in accelerating the implementation of the **ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025 to mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities** across all three pillars of the ASEAN Community, and foster Member States' commitment towards an inclusive community; and
- Cooperate with countries in the region and through relevant international cooperative frameworks to combat transnational crimes, especially **human trafficking, people smuggling, and online child exploitation and abuse**, taking into account the specific needs of victims, including women, children and persons with disabilities.

3 At the international level, Thailand pledges to:

- Support the work of the **Human Rights Council and other UN human rights mechanisms** with the aim to improve human rights situation on the ground on a non-discriminatory basis;
- Advocate for **non-politicization of human rights** and further work to uphold the role of the Human Rights Council as a forum for **constructive dialogue** and to promote the **progressive role of the Council in preventing human rights violations and abuses on the ground**;
- Continue supporting the work of the **Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights**, including through voluntary contributions, and advocacy for its independence and impartiality;
- Engage constructively with and further promote the effective work of the **Special Procedures of Human Rights Council** and take into account their recommendations to improve human rights situations around the world;
- Continue our **dialogue and cooperation with all stakeholders on both civil and political rights as well as economic, social and cultural rights**, including through development cooperation, which complements the on-going efforts of the international community in the advancement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- Support and provide **technical cooperation and capacity building**, as one of the tools to help countries strengthen human rights implementation on the ground;
- Continue to support the discussions and efforts to further promote the **effectiveness and strengthen the work of the Human Rights Council (HRC)**, including through building more synergies from progress and related works of different chapters of the United Nations, as well as its relevant mechanisms particularly the **Universal Periodic Review (UPR)**; and
- Actively and constructively engage in the discussion and negotiations in the development of **relevant international instruments that have human rights implications**, including in areas such as **pandemic preparedness and response and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) crimes**.

Advancing human rights: making a real difference

Thailand is fully committed to **advancing human rights both at home and abroad**. We have made significant strides in advancing human rights in the country over the past several years, through the strengthening of our legal and policy frameworks, improved access to justice, promotion of human rights education, and trainings and capacity buildings for officers, and will continue to do so.

Thailand is always supportive of the work of the HRC and strives to **bring positive changes to the work of the HRC and to ensure that it makes a real difference on the ground**. Thailand will work not only to address human rights challenges of our time, but also to mainstream human rights on issues for future generations.

What we have done in the past?

Our Track Record:

- Thailand has an established track record of being an **active and constructive member** and bridge-builder during our HRC membership for the term 2010 – 2013 and our **Presidency** of the Council from June 2010 – June 2011.
- During the Thai presidency of the Council¹, the **first review of work and functioning of HRC** reached a successful conclusion, with consensus among Member States.
- In 2011, Thailand, as a member of the Council, initiated the HRC Resolution on “**Enhancement of Technical Cooperation and Capacity Building in the Field of Human Rights**” to foster **constructive dialogue and cooperation** on human rights, which will lead to **more concrete implementation on the ground**. As a perholder of the Resolution, Thailand has advocated that technical cooperation and capacity building be used as important tools to prevent violations, as well as protecting and promoting human rights. In addition to our past contribution, Thailand contributed **100,000 USD to the UN Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights** in 2021.

- Thailand is a **core group member** of several other HRC Resolutions, such as “Promotion and protection of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, “Human rights in the context of HIV and AIDS”, “World Programme for Human Rights Education”, “Business and human rights”, “Independence and impartiality of the judiciary, jurors, and assessors and the independence of lawyers”, and “Cooperation with regional human rights organizations”.
- Thailand also takes pride that the UN Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders adopted by the UNGA in 2010 or “**The Bangkok Rules**” have been implemented worldwide.

- Thailand actively participated in the **3 Universal Periodic Reviews (2012, 2016 and 2021)** and voluntarily submitted 2 Midterm Reports (2014 and 2019). We are fully committed to implementing the accepted recommendations while continuing to closely reexamine those of which we took note.

- **Within the region**, Thailand has played proactive roles in promoting human rights, including in the establishment and work of ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), one of the key regional human rights bodies in Asia and the Pacific; and as the host of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and OHCHR Regional Office for South-East Asia.

- A number of Thai human rights experts have proudly served and continued to contribute to the work of the human rights treaty bodies.²

Why we think we can make a real difference?

Our Vision for HRC:

If elected, Thailand will strive to strengthen human rights and the work of the Human Rights Council and its ability to promote and protect human rights worldwide by

- promoting **dialogues, engagement and consultations** within the Council, with concerned countries and with relevant stakeholders, with a view to finding common grounds, bridging the gaps between various poles, promoting cooperation, and reducing polarisation;
- being a **constructive partner** who strives to strengthen and maintain the **spirit of cooperation**;
- adopting a **balanced approach**, addressing all dimensions of human rights;
- working to strengthen **prevention** efforts and measures, along with supporting the promotion and protection of human rights;
- advocating **greater collaboration** amongst international bodies dealing with human rights, including HRC, the Third Committee of UNGA, Special Procedures and human rights treaty bodies, to amplify their efforts;
- ensuring that HRC address **new and emerging challenges** that affect human rights including the right to clean, healthy and sustainable environment, climate change, digital and cyber technology; and pandemic preparedness;
- enhancing efforts to promote **gender equality, advance the rights, protection, and empowerment of all** (including women, children, persons with disabilities, older persons, migrant workers, displaced persons, stateless persons, among others) as well as promoting **business and human rights**;
- strengthening **technical cooperation and capacity-building activities**, including through a peer support platform, to assist States in fulfilling their human rights obligations;
- promoting economic and social development that is right-based, people-centered and sustainable, including through further exploration of the High Commissioner for Human Rights’ Initiative on human rights economy.

¹ Presented over by H.E. Mr. Sthapak Phuangkitkeow, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations in Geneva at the time.

² - Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW): Ms. Saisuee Chantikul (2007-2010)

- Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC): Ms. Saisuee Chantikul (2001-2005) and Mr. Sangphast Koompraphant (2009-2013)

- Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD): Mr. Montthan Bunan (2013-2016 / 2017-2020) and Ms. Saowalak Thongkuy (2021-2024)

- Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR): Mr. Seee Nonhasoot (2021-2024)

