

**Statement by
H.E. Mr. Sihasak Phuangketkeow
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand
at the International Conference on
the Global Partnership against Online Scams
Wednesday 17 December 2025 at 09.10hrs.
at the InterContinental Bangkok**

**Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. It is my pleasure to welcome you to Bangkok for this **International Conference on the Global Partnership against Online Scams**.
2. On behalf of the Royal Thai Government, I extend **my sincere appreciation to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for co-hosting** this Conference with Thailand. I also wish to thank **all partner countries, international organisations, and stakeholders** for coming together to address an issue that gravely affects us all.
3. As you know, modern-day technology connects people across borders faster than ever before. It enables innovation, growth, and opportunity. But it also creates new spaces for criminals to operate – often faster than laws, institutions, and societies can keep up with and adapt.
4. Online scams are no longer petty crimes. They are **industrial-scale, transnational operations** that exploit technology, legal gaps, and weak enforcement -- causing serious harm to people, livelihoods, and economies.
5. According to UNODC, **scam centres have expanded** rapidly across Southeast Asia, and are spreading to other regions of the world. In **2023, online fraud caused financial losses of around 18 to 37 billion US Dollars in East and Southeast Asia alone. In Thailand, reported losses exceeded 3.16 billion US Dollars over the past three years.**
6. These numbers are alarming. But **the human cost is far greater.**

7. Online scams are closely linked to **human trafficking, forced labour, money laundering, and other forms of transnational organized crime**. They threaten human rights, public security, and our shared progress toward sustainable development.
8. Scam centres do not operate in a vacuum. They flourish in countries where the rule of law is weak, accountability is lacking, and enforcement is selective or ineffective.
9. While many scam operations are concentrated in Southeast Asia, the victims of trafficking for forced criminality come from all corners of the world. This year alone, Thailand **has assisted in repatriating more than 10,000 individuals from over 40 nations**, rescued from scam centres in our neighbouring countries.
10. This reality makes one point very clear: **no country can solve this problem alone**.
11. We must **cooperate more closely and act more swiftly** – to **rescue and protect** victims, to **distinguish** clearly between victims and perpetrators, to **investigate and prosecute** criminal networks, and to **prevent new victims** from falling into these traps.
12. This requires strong political will, effective law enforcement, and a whole-of-society approach involving all stakeholders.
13. **Thailand has taken concrete steps at home**. In recent months alone, assets linked to online fraud worth more than **300 million US Dollars** have been confiscated. We are also working closely with the private sector and civil societies to strengthen prevention and raise public awareness.
14. At the international level, Thailand is proud to be among the seventy two states that signed the **UN Convention Against Cybercrime** in Hanoi earlier this year. This reflects our firm commitment to strengthening global cooperation against cyber-enabled crimes.

**Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,**

15. When countries act alone, we may only catch small fish, while the big fish – the major criminal networks – continue to operate across borders.
16. To dismantle these networks, we need a platform that allows us to pool our strengths, share intelligence, and act in a more coordinated manner.
17. Thailand initiated this Conference, not simply to create another forum, but to help close the gaps between existing ones. Our intention is to **complement ongoing efforts** and **focus squarely on implementation**.
18. This Conference is therefore designed as a **practical, multi-stakeholder platform**—where like-minded countries, international organizations, the private sector, and civil society can learn from one another, align their approaches, and move from discussion to action.
19. More importantly, Thailand hopes this Conference will lead to the establishment of a **Global Partnership against Online Scams** – a partnership that delivers concrete cooperation, not just good intentions.

**Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,**

20. As a **demonstration of our shared political will**, I **look forward to** the adoption of the **Bangkok Joint Statement**. I encourage all countries and stakeholders who share our determination to consider co-sponsoring the Statement and joining this Global Partnership.
21. Online scams are a global threat. But **our response can – and must – be global** as well.
22. Only by working together can we protect our people, uphold human dignity, and ensure that technology serves progress, not crime.
23. I wish you a productive and successful meeting. Thank you.