

Thailand Statement on the sixth Thailand-United Kingdom Strategic Dialogue

H.E. Mr. Vijavat Isarabhakdi, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, met with H.E. Ms. Seema Malhotra, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Indo-Pacific) of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, on 25 May 2026 for the Sixth Thailand–United Kingdom Strategic Dialogue at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand.

Thailand and the United Kingdom share a longstanding and trusted partnership grounded in more than 170 years of diplomatic relations and sustained by close political, economic, security, and people-to-people ties. Convened at the conclusion of the 170th anniversary year of bilateral relations, the Dialogue provided an important opportunity for both sides to reaffirm their shared commitment to elevating Thailand–United Kingdom relations into a more forward-looking, resilient, and strategically focused partnership capable of responding effectively to evolving regional and global challenges.

Both sides underscored the importance of maintaining regular high-level exchanges and strengthening institutional mechanisms under the Thailand–United Kingdom Strategic Partnership Roadmap to ensure greater coherence and continuity across all pillars of cooperation. Thailand expressed its readiness to work closely with the United Kingdom to advance a modern partnership anchored in strategic trust, economic resilience, technological innovation, and sustainable growth.

Economic cooperation featured prominently in the discussions as both sides recognised the importance of strengthening supply chain resilience, enhancing economic security, and promoting sustainable and innovation-driven growth. The Thai side reiterated its support for advancing the Enhanced Trade Partnership (ETP), noted the benefits of launching negotiations towards a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the United Kingdom, and expressed interest in exploring future negotiations towards a Digital Trade Agreement (DTA). Thailand also highlighted opportunities to expand cooperation in strategic sectors, including next-generation automotive industries, financial services, clean and renewable energy, the digital economy, and emerging technologies.

Furthermore, Thailand emphasised the strategic importance of strengthening connectivity between the peoples and institutions of both countries as a long-term investment in the bilateral relationship. In this regard, the Thai side welcomed deeper collaboration in education, research, science, technology and innovation, as well as arts and culture. Both delegations also looked forward to enhanced cooperation in transnational education, skills development, and the

mutual recognition of qualifications to support future-ready human capital and closer societal linkages.

Against the backdrop of an increasingly uncertain geopolitical and security environment, Thailand underscored the importance of closer security and defence cooperation between the two countries. The Thai side expressed its commitment to convening the next Thailand–United Kingdom Security Dialogue and enhancing cooperation in addressing transnational threats of common concern, including cyber-enabled crime, scam centre networks, illicit trafficking, and other forms of organised transnational crime. Both sides also recognised the value of deepening cooperation in defence industry development and defence capacity-building as part of broader efforts to strengthen bilateral security cooperation. Additionally, Thailand welcomed continued exchanges on regional and international developments, including developments in the Indo-Pacific.

Thailand reaffirmed its commitment to achieving net zero emissions in line with its national climate ambitions and highlighted the importance of strengthening cooperation with the United Kingdom on climate action, energy transition, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable finance. The Thai side particularly welcomed the prospect of closer collaboration on carbon markets, green investment, and innovative financing mechanisms to support sustainable and inclusive development.

Looking ahead, Thailand seeks to translate the outcomes of the Sixth Strategic Dialogue into concrete deliverables and practical cooperation and remains committed to further advancing the Thailand–United Kingdom Strategic Partnership as a relationship of enduring strategic significance and shared future prosperity.
