



**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,**

**before the General Debate
of the International Migration Review Forum,**

20 May 2022, New York

Please check against delivery

Mr. President,

1. Thailand aligns itself with the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of Champion Countries of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM).
2. When we adopted the GCM four years ago, little did we know that COVID-19 would emerge, subsequently exacerbating existing inequalities and vulnerabilities experienced by migrants worldwide.
3. The pandemic has shown how interconnected and vulnerable we are, and how much we depend on each other for our health and well-being. Sustainable solutions lie in having an inclusive approach that does not leave anyone behind, including migrants. This applies not only for the pandemic, but also in how countries can build back better and greener for all. For Thailand, this involves pursuing the Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) Economy Model to advance the welfare of all stakeholders, while protecting our planet.
4. The GCM continues to provide a solid guideline to achieving safe, orderly and regular migration. We thus must spare no effort to promote its implementation, especially through international cooperation and sharing of best practices.
5. Allow me to share some of Thailand's three important achievements to date, followed by four pledges.
6. First, Thailand has set up a national inter-agency working group on GCM and GCR and adopted a national GCM implementation plan for 2020 - 2022. We have also decided to join the IOM's exercise on the Migration Governance Indicators to gain better understanding of our strengths, as well as gaps, in the migration management and governance. These steps should lead to more comprehensive GCM implementation plans at the national level in the future.

7. Second, as migrant workers account for almost ten percent of our total workforce, Thailand attaches importance to the regularization of migrant workers, the promotion and protection of their rights, addressing their vulnerabilities, and the enhancement of their access to basic services. For example, we have extended stay and work permits for over 1.6 million regular and irregular migrant workers during the pandemic.

8. Third, the good health of migrants is an integral part of our national public health strategies. Thailand has provided COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines to all migrants, regardless of their nationalities and immigration status. A healthy labour force, protected by safeguards for health and welfare, is an important ingredient in our sustainable recovery efforts and effective transition to the post-COVID-19 landscape.

9. As a GCM Champion Country, Thailand stands ready to share our experiences in the promotion of access to health services for migrants and the alternatives to child detention.

Mr. President,

10. To reflect our strong commitment to put the GCM into practice, I am pleased to announce Thailand's pledges as follows:

11. First, we shall "enable birth registration for all migrant's children born in Thailand."

12. Second, we shall "make progress towards the achievement of universal health coverage (UHC), including for wider groups of migrants."

13. Third, we shall "effectively implement alternative to detention measures for migrant children."

14. And fourth, we shall “promote public perception regarding the positive contribution of migrants to society and to end discrimination and stigmatization against them.”

15. To conclude, let us embrace migrants in our economies, in our societies and in our hearts.

16. Thank you, Mr. President.
