

### At the national level, Thailand will: (continued)

- Strengthen the implementation of the National Action Plan on Human Rights and the effectiveness of its monitoring mechanism and follow up processes;
- Continue active engagement and dialogue with civil society and encourage public participation to enhance human rights and a democratic environment in the country;
- Expedite efforts towards the withdrawal of the country's reservations in respect of CEDAW and ICCPR;
- Pursue feasibility studies and other efforts towards becoming a party to the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearances;
- Pursue feasibility studies and other efforts towards becoming a party to relevant ILO Conventions in particular the Convention No. 87: Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize Convention, the Convention No. 98: Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining Convention and the Convention No. 111: Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention; and
- Cooperate and work closely with UN treaty bodies as well as intensify efforts to implement the treaty bodies' recommendations and ensure the submission of the National Reports under the human rights instruments to which Thailand is a party within the scheduled time line.

### At the regional level, Thailand will:

- Strengthen its active contribution to the development of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights and the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children to effectively promote and protect human rights of people within ASEAN;
- Promote regional dialogue and cooperation for promotion and protection of human rights through various relevant fora;
- Raise awareness of the principles and the importance of human security; and
- Strengthen its cooperation with neighbouring countries to combat human trafficking and human smuggling, particularly their impacts on vulnerable groups, and continue to offer technical assistance in strengthening capacities of governments in the region to promote and protect rights of persons with disabilities.

### At the international level, Thailand will:

- Maintain an active and constructive engagement in the work of the HRC and support its mechanisms in fulfilling its mandate and functions, particularly in assisting States to advance the cause of human rights; addressing gross violations of human rights in a non-selective manner; raising public awareness on human rights; and promoting human rights of people worldwide;
- Continue constructive dialogue on human rights issues in the UN fora with all countries based on the spirit of cooperation and mutual respect;
- Support the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) to enable it to become an effective mechanism that can improve human rights situations on the ground;
- Engage constructively and work closely with HRC Special Procedures;
- Continue to cooperate with all countries to promote and protect the rights of women, the rights of the child, and the rights of persons with disabilities in compliance with the relevant international instruments in the global arena;
- Continue to promote gender equality between women and men and to cooperate with all relevant stakeholders to combat violence against women in all its forms, including human trafficking, sexual discrimination and discrimination against women prisoners; and
- Foster and support international dialogue on democracy, human security, as well as interfaith and intercultural dialogue to increase understanding, tolerance and reconciliation among faiths, cultures and traditions; and continue to foster the Global Partnership for Development, building on Thailand's role in various bilateral, sub-regional and regional cooperation frameworks, with a view to promoting realization of the right to development beyond Thailand.

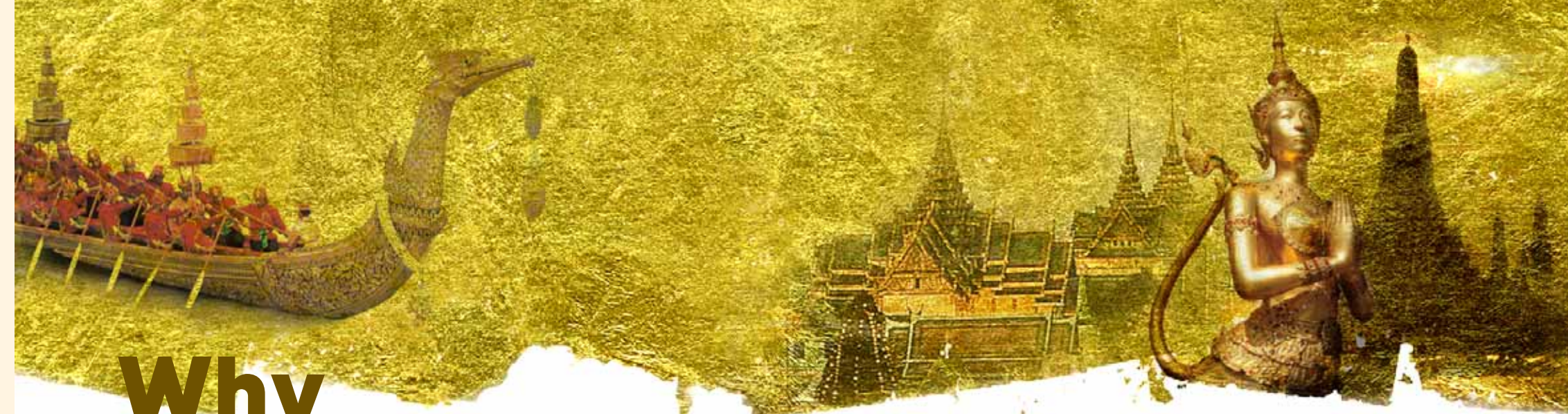


## Thailand's Commitments and Pledges

*As a member of the Human Rights Council in the period 2010 - 2013, Thailand is committed to advancing the cause of human rights at the national, regional and international levels:*

### At the national level, Thailand will:

- Strengthen efforts for the promotion and protection of human rights through, inter alia, supporting the work of the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand which is committed to fully exercising its power vested by the Constitution to advance the cause of human rights in the country while fully respecting its independent character;
- Strengthen the implementation of all human-rights related legislation and policies and expedite the review and amendment process of various pieces of legislation that contain elements of discrimination, particularly those concerned with the rights of vulnerable groups such as the elimination of violence against women and children, the equal status of persons with disabilities and the basic rights of marginalized groups;
- Strengthen law enforcement in line with international human rights standards and norms, particularly through the promotion of human rights education and training among law enforcement officers and security personnel;
- Promote human rights education in all types of education and at all levels both in schools and higher academic institutions in accordance with the World Programme of Human Rights Education and its Plan of Action;
- Strengthen the justice system and the rule of law to ensure fairness and non-discrimination while preventing impunity;
- Continue and strengthen the interfaith dialogue emphasizing respect for diversity and enhancement of reconciliation, cooperation and social harmony;
- Strengthen efforts to promote and protect the basic rights of the poor, particularly the right to health, the right to education, the right to equal access to justice as well as their community rights;



## Why Thailand?

*Thailand is seeking the chance to be a first time member of the HRC, based on the principle of real inclusiveness of the Council and its consistent contributions to the cause of human rights at all levels. **Nationally**, Thailand recognizes its problems and has a strong determination to fix them. **Regionally**, Thailand has played an active role in promoting and protecting the human rights of people that has led to the establishment of the first regional human rights body in Asia. **Internationally**, Thailand has been a constructive force in promoting moderation and fostering the spirit of cooperation. The country is working with all sides in partnership and on the basis of the interests of all citizens around the world to receive protection from all forms of human rights violation. Thailand strongly believes that with its contributions, efforts and determination as reflected in concrete commitments and pledges towards the advancement of human rights, the country can be a meaningful member and an effective partner in the Human Rights Council.*

Department of International Organizations  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
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## Thailand's Human Rights Commitments and Pledges

**Human Rights Council Election 2010**



*civil society, recognizes the need to cooperate in seriously solving the problems...if the Government or state officials do not learn how to respect human rights themselves, problems will never end. What I would like to see from now on is right understanding and right perspective, and to push ahead in the promotion and protection of human rights...*

*I am confident that even if obstacles still remain in the economic, social, political or legal aspects, but if people are ready to reach out to one another as fellow human beings, that will be the beginning of our success in ensuring the effective enjoyment and safeguard of human rights and freedom and liberty.*

# Thailand's Contributions on Human Rights

## 1 | Freedom and liberty: Core values are enshrined in the Constitution

Thailand has a rich history as a land of freedom and has always embraced the value of diversity. Thailand was among the first 48 countries to endorse the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10 December 1948. The Royal Thai Government respects freedom and liberty of the people and has striven to promote and protect human rights as stipulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This is evident in the 2007 Constitution, which contains the principles of the Universal Declaration as well as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.



## 2 | Human rights: National agenda of the Royal Thai Government

The Royal Thai Government has declared human rights as one of its top national agenda to be pursued vigorously and seriously to ensure that justice, non-discrimination and fair treatment under the rule of law will be accorded to all groups of people. Such policy of the Royal Thai Government has created a conducive environment for the promotion and protection of human rights in the country. It provides clear guidance for all relevant officials to undertake their duties to promote and protect the rights of people.

## 3 | Democracy: A political and social order for the realization of human rights

The Royal Thai Government has a strong commitment to democratic values. The Government is enhancing a democratic environment based on the principles of the rule of law, transparency, good governance and public participation as well as enforcement of laws on the basis of equality, justice, righteousness and universally accepted norms. Thailand is determined to pursue its path towards sustainable democracy in accordance with the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

## 4 | National mechanisms: Avenues for protection and redressing human rights violations

Thailand has established various mechanisms to protect the human rights of people. Among the significant mechanisms are: the National Human Right Commission of Thailand; the National Committee on Human Rights Policy and Plan of Action; the Parliamentary Committee on Justice and Human Rights; the Parliamentary Committee on Vulnerable Groups; the Rights and Liberties Protection Department under the Ministry of Justice; the Office of International Peoples' Rights Protection under the Office of the Attorney General; the Administrative Court; the Constitutional Court; and the Ombudsman. All these mechanisms are regarded as integral parts of the human rights infrastructure for the promotion and protection of human rights in the country.

## 5 | Thailand: A state party to most of the core international human rights instruments

- Thailand is now party to 7 core international human rights instruments, namely:
- (1) the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR);
  - (2) the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR);
  - (3) the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and its Optional Protocol;
  - (4) the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and its two Optional Protocols on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict and on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography;
  - (5) the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD);
  - (6) the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT); and
  - (7) the Convention on the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities (CPRD).

## 6 | National Plans: Mainstreaming and integration of human rights

As human rights are indeed universal, interrelated and interdependent, Thailand attaches equal importance to all rights, be it civil and political rights, or economic, social and cultural rights. Having in mind that human rights are cross-cutting issues that serve as the basis for social progress and people's well-being, the Royal Thai Government has mainstreamed human rights into key national plans. These include: the 10<sup>th</sup> National Economic and Social Development Plan (2007 - 2011) which has provided guiding policy for sustainable development by taking into account human development, human dignity, and community rights; and the National Security Policy (2007 - 2011) which places great importance on the rule of law, non-discrimination, human rights and peaceful methods in achieving national security.

## 7 | Legal and policy frameworks: Special attention to vulnerable groups

Thailand is strongly committed to the fulfillment of its obligations under the international human rights instruments to which the country is party through establishing various legal and policy frameworks. Particular focus is given to the rights of vulnerable groups, namely children, women, persons with disabilities, and older persons. Not only the rights of vulnerable groups have received special attention from the Government, but also marginalized groups such as ethnic persons and migrant workers. The Government is working incessantly to ensure that these people can realize basic rights such as the right to birth registration, health and education.



## 8 | Justice: A key to achieve human rights for all

Thailand is undergoing an ambitious process of improving the administration of justice, including in regard to the judicial process, with a view to ensuring that it is more efficient, transparent and fair to all groups. The objectives focus on: enhancing working systems and processes that could extensively and equitably deliver justice and protection of

rights and liberties to the people; promoting greater participation of the people sector in the judicial process; increasing people's access to information concerning the judicial process, with a view to creating transparency and accountability in the use of state power; and ensuring no impunity in the justice system.

## 9 | Interfaith Dialogue: A key to ensure equal dignity of human beings

The right of people to profess a religion, to observe religion precepts and to exercise a form of worship in accordance with individual belief is guaranteed and protected by the Constitution. Based on such freedom and liberty, interfaith dialogue has become an important element of State policy which has been promoted on several fronts. In Thailand, religious leaders of different faiths meet monthly to discuss issues of common interest and to enhance cooperation as well as mutual understanding among people of different faiths. The Government promotes such activities so as to strengthen a harmonious society and deepen understanding and trust as well as tolerance among people with diverse cultural and religious backgrounds.



## 10 | Freedom of speech and expression: A tool for checks and balances

Thailand is an open society with a vibrant community of both local and international media, human rights defenders, and NGOs in all areas. All these actors actively work to promote human rights not only in Thailand but also in the region. Many regional and international NGOs as well as international organizations have chosen Thailand as a regional centre for their activities. This reflects their recognition of the geographical strategic importance of Thailand in the region and the conducive human rights environment the country can offer for their work. It is also a testament to the vibrant and strong democracy in Thailand.

## 11 | Right to development: Basic element for the full enjoyment of human rights

Thailand attaches importance to the right to development and human security with a view to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, particularly in hunger and poverty alleviation. Thailand has been successful in reducing income poverty incidence according to the National Economic and Social Development Plans. During the world food crisis in 2008, it was among those few countries committed not to intervene in the level of rice exports so as to help to alleviate the international rice shortage and ensure global food security. This reflects Thailand's concrete contribution to the realization of the right to food. Right to health is now materialized through universal health care coverage. Right to education is fully implemented through the provision of 15 years cost-free education for all.



## 12 | Humanitarianism: Thailand's long-time contribution to the world community

Thailand has long upheld a humanitarian tradition of hosting refugees and displaced persons from neighbouring countries. The country continues to assist more than 130,000 displaced persons along its western border. In addition, Thailand has extended assistance to humanitarian efforts far beyond its immediate region, not only through support for those affected by natural and man-made disasters, but also in UN and international humanitarian operations.



## 13 | Regional and International Contributions: Thailand's active role in advancing human rights worldwide

### A. ASEAN HUMAN RIGHTS FRAMEWORKS

As chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) for 2008 - 2009, Thailand is committed to the realization of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) as the first regional level human rights mechanism ever established in Asia. Thailand also continues to strive towards the establishment of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children and the development of ASEAN mechanisms for the implementation of instruments in the areas of trafficking in persons and migrant workers.

### B. THAILAND'S COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS AND FORA

Thailand has been playing an active part in the international human rights fora. Thai mandate holders have served in several human rights treaty bodies and special procedures. Various UN mandate holders have been able to engage with the Thai competent authorities and a wide range of stakeholders in variety of formats, including when visiting Thailand. Thailand has played a generous host to around 32 UN offices, and cooperates closely with the South East Asia Regional Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Representatives of civil society and international human rights organizations are regular visitors to the country. Thailand has hosted numerous international and regional meetings on human rights and has also been a strong advocate of the human security perspective in national and international frameworks. As a member of both the Human Security Network (HSN) and the Friends of Human Security (FHS), Thailand has sought to promote a balance between freedom from fear and freedom from want.

### C. HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL (HRC)

Thailand has supported the work of the HRC since its inception and rendered its full cooperation in the strengthening of the HRC's institutional building process. Thailand has played an active role in the interactive dialogues with the High Commissioner for Human Rights and mandate holders. It is committed to continuing to work closely and constructively with other countries, both members and non-members, to make the HRC an effective human rights institution based on the principles of impartiality, transparency, and constructive international dialogue and cooperation. It is Thailand's strong determination to be able to make greater contribution to the work of the HRC in fulfilling its mandate and functions as stipulated in the resolution on its establishment.

