> *Draft*
> **Statement by H.E. Mr. Vitavas Srivihok,**
> **Deputy Permanent Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Thailand**
> **High Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Appraisal of the United**
> **Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons**
> **27-28 September 2017**
> *(3 minutes)*

President of the General Assembly,
Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

1. Since the adoption of the Global Plan of Action in 2010, Thailand has made eradication of human trafficking our national priority agenda. To reinforce the Global Plan of Action's 4Ps approach, the Thai Government has adopted a 4+1 Ps framework, namely prosecution, protection, prevention, partnership, and policy. For Thailand, policy is in fact the glue that binds the 4Ps together.

2. First, **policy** - the amendment to the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act clarifies our definition of "exploitation" to include practices similar to slavery, as well as "forced labor or services" to include seizure of identification documents and debt bondage in line with UNTOC. This ensures that all victims of trafficking are protected under Thai law.

3. Second, **prosecution** - our "zero tolerance" toward human trafficking, especially traffickers, was again demonstrated through the recent verdict of 62 offenders involved in the "Rohingya" case – where sentences up to 94 years for government officials were given.

4. Third, **protection** – Thailand attaches importance on effective victim protection measures to all groups, especially people with vulnerability. We adhere to a human rights based approach for the interests of the victims and provide child and gender-sensitive protection.

5. Fourth, **prevention** - we are working on establishing a national screening mechanism for undocumented immigrants, victims of trafficking, and refugees. Once in place, it will effectively screen out those who do not need assistance, while screening in those who truly need protection.

6. Thailand also signed labor cooperation MoUs with neighboring countries to facilitate about 403,000 migrant workers from 4 countries to be able to legally work in Thailand. We have also cooperated with the ILO to promote and implement the Good Labour Practices programme in both the fisheries and poultry sector. Furthermore, a draft National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights, which is in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), is also being developed.

7. Lastly, **partnership** – the Government has strengthened public-private-civil society partnership in various manners. Among many initiatives, a Memorandum on Cooperation to Prevent, Suppress, and Anti-Trafficking in Persons was signed last year by more than 50 agencies from the Government, private sector, and civil society organizations.

Mr. President, Distinguished colleagues

8. Thailand believes that more can be done. We have to step up our efforts to make sure that **trafficking is a "high risk-no reward" business**. We must also cultivate public empathy for the victims and give due consideration to the special needs of all vulnerable groups.

9. **Improved data collection and analysis system** is another essential factor in providing the right solutions pertaining to prevention, protection, prosecution and remedies. All partner countries, the UN and its related agencies can contribute in this regard as they have plenty to share and help Member States improve their data sets and analysis at the aggregate and disaggregate level.

10. As we move forward with the Global Plan and the adoption of the Political Declaration, we **must strengthen cooperation with all stakeholders**, including the private sector. Their roles and contribution is invaluable and must be factored in on our efforts at all levels. The Bali Process Government and Business Forum launched in Perth, Australia, last month is a promising initiative that should be fostered and developed alongside domestic efforts of the same.

11. **Thank you.**