

Mr./Madam President,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Esteemed colleagues,

1. In a well-functioning checks and balances system, national parliament, as one of key oversight institutions, plays an enabling part in upholding integrity and good governance as well as promoting an effective, transparent and accountable public administration conducive to the achievement of SDG16 by holding their governments to account within the national anti-corruption framework and ensure a system that is fair to all citizens.
2. In recent years, Thailand has been pursuing a number of legislative initiatives to strengthen national legal framework for public integrity and improve the effectiveness of anti-corruption mechanisms. For example, the 2018 new anti-corruption organic law was passed by the Thai parliament with the aim to extend its scope beyond high-ranking political officials and MP candidates, who are already subject to financial disclosure system, as well as codes of conduct and other ethical standards for MPs.
3. This new legislation was not only amended to cover family members and political parties of elected officials as well as foreign public officials, staff of international organizations and foreign companies that open businesses in Thailand, but also explicitly addresses conflict of interests and lays down new guidelines for gift and hospitality policy in line with the UN Convention against Corruption.

4. With the view to further enhancing efficiency in the judicial system to address the increasing number of corruption cases, Thailand has, in 2016, established a new specialized Criminal Court for Corruption and Misconduct Case with explicit jurisdiction to specifically handle corruption and misconduct cases involving public officials.
5. Since 2017, the Thai government also launched a “regulatory guillotine” project to cut down on administrative red tape, licensing across government and permits for businesses in a range of areas. The initiative focuses on reducing and amending outdated laws and regulations that led to a higher score for Thailand in the World Bank “**Ease of Doing Business**” index, jumping from 48th place in 2017 to 21st in 2020.
6. The Parliament of Thailand, as an active member of both GOPAC and SEAPAC, has prioritized its efforts to strengthening parliamentary oversight functions in the fight against corruption, through two anti-corruption standing committees as well as budget implementation follow-up committees in both chambers, by monitoring national corruption prevention policies and practices and scrutinizing the government’s budget spending on infrastructure megaprojects and other public procurements to address fraud risks, while promoting access to government open data and active participation of relevant stakeholders.

7. In addition, Thailand has, over the years, invested more in digitalization and ICTs to expand e-government services for efficient, accountable and inclusive service delivery with the aim to empower citizens by simplifying administrative procedures and move towards a more citizen-centric approach for public services in due compliance with international frameworks and standards.

8. In closing, the National Assembly of Thailand reaffirms our full commitment to continue working towards SDG16 and underscores the central role of lawmakers to serve as a role model in championing integrity in public governance while gaining public trust and confidence. Parliamentarians must lead by example in setting a high ethical standard for public officials as well as fostering a culture of zero tolerance against all forms of corruption to shape a just, people-centered and inclusive society built on accountability, transparency and respect for human rights as well as the rule of law and good governance at all levels.

Thank you for your kind attention.

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