

**Statement by the President of the National Assembly of Thailand**  
at the General Debate during the 150th IPU Assembly *(6 minutes)*

Mr./ Madam President of the Assembly,  
Honourable delegates,  
Esteemed colleagues,

- 1) On behalf of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Thailand, I extend our congratulations and appreciation to the Parliament of Uzbekistan for a gracious hosting of this Assembly, and for the warm hospitality accorded to all participants. Our best wishes also go to the IPU President and the IPU Secretary General for the success of this historic event.
- 2) Amid the fast-evolving challenges of our times, such as rising inequalities, declining human development, the worsening impacts of climate change and rapid technological disruption, Thailand firmly believes that national parliaments have an obligation to help level the playing field for the marginalized and the most vulnerable, and to create a secured, prosperous and just society for all.
- 3) To this end, the Thai Parliament is dedicated to promoting sustainable development, social justice and human capital development focused on individuals and community's empowerment. Our commitment includes ensuring equal rights and opportunities across all dimensions of human security, such as education, social protection systems and health – to foster a more rights-based and inclusive society.
- 4) To reaffirm Thailand's readiness to become a leading wellness and medical hub of the Asia-Pacific region, the Parliament of Thailand will continue to work towards ensuring equitable access to quality health services for everyone by further upgrading our Universal Health Coverage scheme, through expanding 30-baht "**Treatment Anywhere with One ID Card**" programme, allowing Thai citizens to easily access healthcare services anywhere with just single national ID card, regardless of their registered health facilities, both public and private ones.

- 5) Last December, the Parliament of Thailand had the privilege to co-host a “**Regional Conference on Global Health Security**” in collaboration with the IPU and WHO in Bangkok. This event successfully met its objectives in mobilizing parliamentary cooperation and empowering parliamentarians to enhance regional health emergency preparedness and pandemic response capacity.
- 6) The Parliament of Thailand has contributed to laying a robust foundation for inclusive and quality education for all, while reducing educational disparities. This includes various legislative initiatives, such as the 2018 **Equitable Education Fund Act** enacted to support disadvantaged youth, irrespective of their nationalities or migrant status. Additionally, in 2022, the Parliament amended the 2017 **Student Loan Fund Act** to provide debt burden relief to students pursuing higher education.
- 7) On top of that, we are now stepping up our legislative response to bolster the country’s climate actions. The Thai Parliament is now expediting **the Clean Air Act**, praised by the IPU as a notable example of citizen-initiated legislation, aiming to tackle air pollution and safeguard the people’s rights to clean air. We are also anticipating the country’s first-ever **draft Climate Change Act**, which would set up a carbon pricing mechanism based on “*polluter pays principle*” and prompt our private sector to align their business practices with national climate targets. The draft legislation is expected to be presented to the Parliament in the near future.
- 8) Lastly, the Parliament of Thailand gladly welcomes the IPU’s “**Parliaments for the Planet**” campaign and has undertaken various greening initiatives under our **Green Parliament** programme, to reduce carbon footprint and embrace a culture of sustainability in every aspect of parliamentary operations, including expanding green spaces, adopting paperless practices and implementing green procurement through digital approach.

9) To conclude my remarks, I would like to emphasize that the journey towards social development and justice requires long-term commitment as well as empowerment and meaningful participation of individuals, communities and all relevant stakeholders through collective efforts across multiple sectors and levels, both within and among countries. Thailand remains resolute in our efforts to work closely with all development partners to enhance human security and to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs in order to build a better world for us now and a promising future for the next generations.

I thank you, Mr./Madam President.



