

Statement by
Hon. Mr. Surachai Liengboonlertchai
First Vice-President of the National Legislative Assembly
At the General Debate on the Theme “Strengthening the Global Regime for
Migrants and Refugees: The Need for Evidence Based Policy Solutions”
138th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
26 March 2018, CICG, Geneva

Madam President,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. At Southeast Asia, the Kingdom of Thailand, has committed and immersed ourselves to facilitate legal migration based on human rights and humanitarian principles. One country shall not be given the burden to face this issue alone as migrants and refugees are crossing borders involving the whole international community. We would like to share our experience and invite our friends and partners to cooperate for the betterment of the global community and citizens.
2. For the past four decades, Thailand has hosted over one million displaced persons from various countries and is currently hosting over one-hundred thousand displaced persons in nine contemporary shelters along Thai-Myanmar border. Moreover, we also shouldered a large group of maritime irregular migrants and Persons of Concern to UNHCR in urban settings from Countries near and far.
3. Thailand believes in a balanced, inclusive and comprehensive approach towards international migration management and supports the principles of the New York Declaration, the draft Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the draft Global Compact for Refugees, as it will help us achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and truly leave no one behind.
4. Thailand has adopted comprehensive approach to make Thailand’s labour management system more effective and sustainable. We have signed bilateral MoUs with immediate neighboring countries to expand regular employment pathways and control irregular movement in the sub-region. To date, more than five-hundred-and-fifty-thousand migrant workers are working in Thailand under the MoU arrangements. Though challenges remain, Thailand have repeatedly been acknowledged by key international organizations, namely IOM, UNHCR and UNICEF for our efforts.

5. Complimenting those efforts, the National Legislative Assembly recently passed or upgraded legislation aimed at promoting long-term and comprehensive change. These legislations include **two-thousand-sixteen Law on Bringing Migrant Workers to Work with Employers in the Kingdom** and **two-thousand-seventeen Law on Foreign Workers Management**. We are also in the process of enacting legislations to prohibit all forms of forced labour, and fight against people smuggling.
6. Parliaments can help maximize the benefits of migration through legislative process to reduce unfair burdens on migrants, as well as support Government's policies. Furthermore, we support UN and IPU goals on important global policies. Also, we are ready to positively contribute to the IPU process and coordinate with government agencies to strengthen Thailand's national migration policy and the implementation of both Global Compacts at national, regional and global levels.

**Madam President,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

7. This meeting provides the best opportunities for us to share and learn from our colleagues worldwide on how best we can improve migration management and what roles can the parliament play to coordinate and support the Government in promoting effective migration policies. Thailand is open to hear about our friends' lessons, reflect on our experiences and continue our contribution as we would like to invite the international community to work together to promote safe and orderly migration based on human rights and humanitarian principles.
8. Thank you very much for your kind attention.

22 March 2018