

**Thailand's statement at the General Discussion, Fifth working session of the  
Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, 30 July 2014, UNHQ**

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, Thailand expresses its appreciation to the bureau in the preparation of the session.

Mr. Chairman

Caring and respect for the elderly have always been a long tradition and cornerstone of Thai culture. As Thailand inches closer to being an ageing society, the growing demands of modern life are challenging the traditional ability of the family to care for the elderly. The Thai Government has therefore accelerating efforts to ensure that rights of older persons are protected in accordance with MIPAA through a comprehensive set of laws and plans.

Thailand's formal support system for the elderly is guided by the 20-year second National Plan for Older Persons (2002- 2022) and the Act regarding Older Persons, which is in line with the MIPAA. In addition, the National Commission on the Elderly is the platform for moving the relevant laws and policies forward.

Mr. Chairman

The Older Persons Act guarantees the rights of the elderly as well as protection and security in health, social, and economic fields. The Act also established the Older Persons Fund which provides interest free loans for elderly persons who want to start their own businesses after retirement. The fund also allows tax deductions for those who provide financial support to their parents or purchase health insurance policies for them. The Government also supports Community Caregiver Volunteers for the Elderly and Senior Citizen Centers, which organize social and occupational activities for the elderly. The informal and formal support systems for the elderly in Thailand are thus complementary and mutually reinforcing.

At the same time, the National Plan for Older Persons focuses on strengthening the capacity of the elderly to remain productive members of society while maintaining good health with adequate savings. Through our universal healthcare coverage, elderly persons in Thailand can access free medical services based on the principle of the right to health. Moreover, special arrangements, including elderly clinics in hospitals, have also been initiated.

Mr. Chairman,

Thailand sees many options as practical and should be expeditiously implemented at the multilateral or UN level to strengthen the rights of older persons in accordance with MIPAA. An example is mainstreaming older people's rights in

existing human rights treaty bodies. Synergy and closer collaboration and coordination on ageing issues also need to be strengthened amongst Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and other bodies such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

Thailand also supports the role of UN at the regional level in the advancement of rights of older persons under MIPAA. We are pleased to see that the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific or ESCAP adopting in 2012 the Bangkok Statement on the Asia-Pacific Review of the Implementation of the MIPAA. The Bangkok Statement identified key recommendations for effective implementation of the MIPAA at both national and regional levels.

Thailand also believes that technical assistance provided to requesting states to assist them in implementing UN standards on ageing can be very useful in narrowing the implementation gaps.

Mr. Chairman,

Lastly, Thailand would like to affirm our support in the inclusion of ageing issues in the post-2015 development agenda including the promotion and protection of rights of older persons.

Thank you.

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