

Intervention by Delegation of Thailand

Mr. Prayoon Rattanasenee, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Interior
68th UNHCR Executive Committee, Agenda Item 5(a) on International Protection
Thursday 5 October 2017, 10.00-13.00 hours

**Madame Chair,
High Commissioner,
Distinguished Delegates,**

1. Thailand wishes to express our appreciation for the UNHCR's Note on International Protection.
2. I would like to highlight two of our recent efforts.
3. **Firstly**, Thailand firmly believes that legal status is an effective means to reduce statelessness. Thailand strongly supports the UNHCR's #IBelong campaign. The Thai Cabinet approved two resolutions. One, granting foreign children born in Thailand the right to legally stay in Thailand, following the rights of their parents, and preventing them from being criminalized as illegal immigrants, and another prescribing legal pathway for foreign children born in Thailand to apply for Thai nationality. Around 110,000 children could benefit from the implementation of these two resolutions.
4. **Secondly**, after the successful voluntary return of the pilot group of 71 Myanmar displaced persons last year, Thailand and Myanmar, with support from UNHCR, IOM, and other related organizations, are working closely to prepare for the second round of voluntary return. The return to their homeland in a voluntary, safe, and dignity.
5. I would also like to take this opportunity to underscore that the Royal Thai Government together with the UNHCR, international organizations, participating countries, and dozens of NGOs has done significant humanitarian work to strengthen multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder cooperation to address existing and emerging challenges and needs of displaced persons residing in nine temporary shelters in Thailand along the Thai-Myanmar border.

Indeed, addressing challenges of humanitarian needs of displaced persons demands our joint efforts.

Madame Chair, High Commissioner, distinguished delegates, Thailand looks forward to continuing working with you all.

6. I thank you, Madame Chair.

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