



Statement by H.E. Mr. Sihasak Phuangketkeow
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand
to the United Nations Office in Geneva
Head of the Thai Delegation

**At the Intergovernmental Event at the Ministerial Level
of Member States of the United Nations
on the Occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the 1951 Convention
relating to the Status of Refugees
and the 50th Anniversary of the 1961 Convention
on the Reduction of Statelessness**

8 December 2011 PM

**Mr. Chairman,
Mr. High Commissioner,
Distinguished Delegates,**

As we celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 50th Anniversary of the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, we recognize that much more work still needs to be done to ensure the necessary protection and assistance for all persons of concern to the UNHCR.

At the same time, it is vital to remember that global issues require global efforts. In this regard, we join the UNHCR in encouraging greater coherence and coordinated international efforts to address protection gaps that may exist and to ensure timely delivery of humanitarian assistance. It is also our view that all stakeholders should try to arrive at a common understanding on the current and evolving humanitarian challenges, such as on the effects of climate change and the causes of irregular movements. We should make our best efforts as we continue to consult with each other to arrive at practical solutions in this regard.

Mr. Chairman,

In accordance with the principle of international burden-sharing and our longstanding humanitarian traditions, Thailand continues to play an active and constructive role in the common efforts to address humanitarian challenges. Taking this opportunity as we celebrate the anniversaries of the two Conventions, Thailand wishes to reaffirm our strong commitment to ensuring that protection and assistance continues to be provided to those in need. Specifically, we wish to make the following pledges:

- First, we will continue to make progress on further refining and broadening the admission criteria for those displaced persons in the temporary shelter areas, and issue personal documentation for those registered by the Thai authorities concerned;

- Second, we will enhance the provision of training for our border and immigration officials to raise their awareness of human rights and the protection needs of those who have been displaced;

- Third, we will continue to broaden education opportunities for those displaced persons living in the temporary shelters as well as other persons of concern, in line with the Thai Government's "Education for All" policy;

- Fourth, we will continue to ensure that all children of displaced persons and those of other persons of concern have non-discriminatory access to protection services under Thailand's Child Protection Act, and those born in Thailand are entitled to birth registration and other rights under Article 7 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

- Fifth, we will continue to consider, where appropriate, further amendment of the Nationality Act of Thailand, as well as provide greater access to birth registration and individual documentation services, including late birth registration, to build on our progress in reducing vulnerability to statelessness; and,

- Lastly, we will continue our constructive role to promote regional cooperation under the principle of burden-sharing and a more predictable approach to handling humanitarian challenges.

I thank you for your kind attention.

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