



Thailand's National Statement

11th Session of the UNCAC Implementation Review Group,
29 June 2020

It is an honour for the National Anti-Corruption Commission to address the eleventh session of the United Nations Convention against Corruption Implementation Review Group (IRG). Thailand would like to thank the President, distinguished members of the Bureau, as well as the Secretariat for hosting this meeting as well as their continuous efforts. We would also like to reiterate our solidarity with fellow State Parties during this challenging time.

First and foremost, Thailand is pleased to inform the Group and fellow State Parties of the completion of the Executive Summary of the Country Report. Upon commencement of the second cycle of the Review Mechanism of the UNCAC in June 2017, Thailand has actively worked in coordination with the Secretariat as well as our Reviewing States, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Kingdom of Bhutan. In addition, we are looking forward to incorporating the review findings as well as the constructive recommendations into the ongoing anti-corruption reform initiatives at the policy, legislative, and as well as law enforcement levels.

Since the commencement of Thailand's second review cycle, the NACC has passed a set of subordinate laws prohibiting public officials from undertaking positions in business organisations as well as prohibitions on acceptance of gifts or benefit of monetary value. For example, a public official being authorised by state for the approval, permission, concession, and signing contracts is prohibited from holding position in a private entity under his/her previous supervision within two years as from the date of vacation from office. These recent regulatory steps were made in efforts to fill the gap as well as levelling towards better compliance under Article 7 of the UNCAC in strengthening preventive measures against conflict of interest.

Further, Thailand attaches great importance to the promotion of integrity in public sector. Last year, the NACC has launched an online system called "Integrity and Transparency Assessment System (ITAS)", which allows the public agencies to submit the assessment of the integrity and transparency in the operation of government agencies through online platform. The assessment results will lead to

the development in public sector's operations with enhanced integrity and transparency in Thailand.

Moreover, being aware of the growing issue of cross-border evasions of corrupt officials and their illicit assets, causing impediments to investigation and prosecution of corruption cases worldwide, last year, the Regional Workshop on Denying Safe Haven to Corrupt Officials and Stolen Assets was jointly organized by the NACC and the UNODC as a platform to discuss the challenge, best practice and solution to the issue. Here, international cooperation and simplified legal process are among the key solutions in addition to the earnestness from all countries to tackle this challenge.

In addition, in our capacity as a reviewing country, Thailand has been honoured to work with the Kingdom of Eswatini in the review of Kingdom of Cambodia during the country visit meetings in late 2019. At present, we are looking to progressing into the following steps of the mechanism.

It is indisputable that, during this unprecedented time of the COVID-19 pandemic, corruption is another invisible threat that imposes parallel challenge on governance and transparency. As state relief measures are being rolled out rapidly to help affected people, such urgency may bring in risks of corruption, the vital role of government and anti-corruption agencies in preventing and combating corruption has never been more compelling.

On the prevention front, recently, the NACC published the research paper "Scenarios for Prevention of Crisis Situation: A Case Study of COVID-19" to propose preventive measures against corruption during the pandemic and other crises that may arise in the future. Further, Corruption Risk Mapping in the COVID-19 Crisis Project has been launched to identify and assess corruption risks nationwide. In this project, data collected from general public across the country will be analysed to identify risk areas and to make recommendations to authorities in monitoring such risks accordingly.

This concludes Thailand's summary of the recent developments in regard of the UNCAC mechanism as well as in response to the urgent risks associated with the pandemic. We look forward to learning the experiences of fellow State Parties and welcome any collaboration and exchanges.
