

National Commitments to SDG Transformation: 2025 Update

1. Name of country: **Thailand**
2. Please provide a **short update on the steps taken, progress made and/or lessons learned in implementing each of the National Commitments to SDG Transformation** announced by your country in conjunction with the 2023 SDG Summit:¹

Name of Commitment:	Contact person: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Louismongkol Sapkul, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations, New York - Ms. Atipha Vadhanaphong, Counsellor, Department of International Organizations, MFA
Brief description of steps taken on implementation, progress made and/or lessons learned:	
<p>1. Continue to promote sustainable development that leaves no one behind, and inequality reduction.</p> <p>Examples of steps taken and progress made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Policy integration and institutional framework</u>: Thailand has embedded the principle of “Leaving No One Behind” into its core national development strategies, notably the 20-Year National Strategy (2018–2037) and the 13th National Economic and Social Development Plan (2023–2027), which guide all sectors in ensuring that development outcomes benefit all population groups. • <u>SDGs localization</u> is a key component of Thailand’s approach, led by the Ministry of Interior in partnership with provincial and local governments. The “Pracharath” model promotes multi-stakeholder collaboration, with provincial governors coordinating implementation tailored to local needs. Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) have been completed in municipalities including Nakhon Si Thammarat and Udon Thani, with ongoing efforts in Koh Samui. • <u>Data-driven policy making</u>: A major innovation supporting targeted action is the Thai People Map and Analytics Platform (TPMAP), a big data analytics system that consolidates data from multiple sources and presents it publicly via the TPMAP Dashboard (https://dashboard.tpmmap.in.th/). The primary objective of TPMAP is to accurately identify issues and vulnerable population groups, in order to address poverty and inequality. The platform supports evidence-based policymaking and implementation of targeted interventions to address multidimensional poverty and social exclusion, in line with SDGs 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, and 10. • <u>Community-led development initiatives</u>: Thailand has continuously implemented the “Baan Mankong Housing Project”, whereby residents of informal settlements are transitioned into secure homeowners through collective community planning and government support. This project enhances social cohesion, economic security, and quality of life of vulnerable groups through direct involvement of local communities in decision-making and resource management. From 2003 through September 2024, the project has been implemented in all provinces across Thailand, benefiting a total of 136,109 households under the urban and rural Baan Mankong programs. Community cohesion has been strengthened, with increased collective engagement in initiatives to improve quality of life, such as communal vegetable gardening, vocational group training, and the organization of cultural and traditional activities. • <u>Land reform and equitable land access</u>: Since 2015, Thailand has implemented land allocation programs to address inequalities in land ownership. By allocating state land for community use and encouraging collective land management, the initiative supports equitable income generation, sustainable livelihoods, and environmental stewardship. Use of technology and community happiness indices guide ongoing policy adjustments. From 2015-2024, land has been allocated for occupation and productive use to 92,645 individuals in 400 areas (covering approximately 250,000 acres). In addition, 57,592 individuals across 357 areas in 68 provinces have received support in livelihood promotion and development. 	

¹ All submitted commitments are available at <https://sdgs.un.org/SDGSummitActions/National>

- Over the past four decades, poverty in Thailand has dramatically reduced from over 65% to below 4%. Access to safe drinking water, electricity, education, and healthcare has reached near universal levels, narrowing gaps between urban and rural areas as well as among income groups. Key SDG indicators reflect improvements in reducing disparities. For example, access to electricity is 100% nationwide, and ownership of mobile phones and bank accounts among disadvantaged groups has substantially increased. Data also show decreasing gaps in educational attainment and access to healthcare.

Lessons learned:

- Data disaggregation and coverage challenges: while TPMAP and other platforms have improved data availability, significant gaps remain, especially in disaggregated data by age, gender, and location. These gaps limit the ability to fully identify and address the needs of marginalized groups.
- Importance of multistakeholder engagement: inclusive governance that involves communities, civil society, and the private sector is essential to achieving LNOB. Transparent data sharing and accountability mechanisms strengthen trust and policy effectiveness.
- Need for sustained capacity building: local governments require ongoing training and resources to implement complex SDG frameworks based on local needs and specificities.

2. Pledging to promote human rights, good health and well-being.

Examples of steps taken and progress made:

- Universal Health Coverage: since 2002, Thailand has continuously implemented a Universal Health Coverage (UHC) system that ensures health coverage for all Thai citizens. This system has significantly reduced the burden of out-of-pocket health expenditures, expanded the range of public health services, and improved access to quality care, including health promotion, disease prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation. Currently, approximately 99% of the population is covered under various health schemes, ensuring access to comprehensive services without undue financial burden. Out-of-pocket health expenditures exceeding 10% of household income are minimal, averaging only 1.6%.
- Gender equality and legal reforms: the 2015 Gender Equality Act and the 2025 legislation recognizing equal marriage rights exemplify Thailand's commitment to human rights and gender equality. The government continues to actively promote women empowerment through education, economic participation, and leadership programs.
- Social protection programs: targeted assistance supports vulnerable groups including persons with disabilities, the elderly, and youth, with initiatives focusing on access to education, employment, and social services. Moreover, Thailand is the first country in Southeast Asia to establish the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), a framework designed to identify, protect, and assist victims of human trafficking. The mechanism brings together multiple stakeholders – including government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and international partners, to ensure that victims receive comprehensive support.
- Mental health and youth engagement: recognizing emerging health challenges, Thailand has increased focus on mental health services, integrating them into primary care and community programs. Youth-led advocacy and education initiatives promote awareness and reduce stigma around mental health issues.
- Improved health outcomes: maternal mortality has declined significantly to below 30 deaths per 100,000 live births, and under-five mortality is approximately 8 per 1,000 live births. Skilled birth attendance is nearly at 100%, supported by over 10,000 community health centers nationwide, which serve to increase health equity across urban and rural populations.
- Reduced disease burden: Thailand has made significant progress in controlling communicable diseases; for example, malaria incidence has decreased by 70%, while tobacco control policies have curtailed risk factors for non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

Lessons learned:

- Emerging challenges such as NCDs, mental health, and health impacts from environmental change underscore the need for integrated, multi-sectoral health policies.

- Health improvements depend on sustained multi-sectoral collaboration among government agencies, civil society, and national and international partners, with strong monitoring and data systems. Enhanced youth participation in health governance can also contribute substantially to future progress.

3. Pledging to foster cooperation in environmental dimension and climate action.

Example of step takens and progress made:

- Green industry and SME capacity building: The government has certified over 500 factories as green industries, significantly reducing over 2.2 million metric tons of CO₂ equivalent emissions. Moreover, the government has implemented a project to support and enhance the capacity of SMEs to operate sustainably by promoting the application of innovation to improve the efficiency of production processes and services, in line with the Bio-Circular-Green Economy Model. As a result, a total of 300 SMEs were supported in developing GHG reduction plans, more than 200 high-value creative products were developed through upcycling process, and more than 102,490 metric tons of CO₂ equivalent emissions have been reduced per year.

- Expansion of organic farming: since 2008, organic farming has been scaled up with action plans focusing on increasing certified organic areas, farmer training, supply chain improvements, and research. Certified organic farming areas have expanded to over 550,000 acres, and organic farmers more than doubling to 160,722, exceeding initial targets. These efforts contribute to sustainable food systems and climate-adaptive agricultural practices.

- Community waste management: The Recyclable Waste Bank Project, launched nationwide in 2024, incentivizes community waste sorting and recycling, linking residents with recycling businesses and funding local sustainability initiatives. The Project has established over 15,700 waste banks engaging 4.25 million registered members, collectively diverting over 1.7 million metric tons of recyclable waste from landfills. This initiative strengthens circular economy principles and community participation in sustainable waste management.

- Renewable energy promotion: The People's Solar Project encourages households to install rooftop solar panels. Households are able to use the electricity they produce and sell any excess power back into the national grid. This reduces household electricity expenses and provides an additional source of income. From an environmental perspective, the project promotes the use of clean, sustainable, and renewable energy that is environmentally friendly. The 2030 rooftop solar installation target of 90 megawatts was met by September 2024, driven by favorable economic conditions and public participation.

- Policy and regulatory enhancements: The government has strengthened policies on air quality, plastic waste reduction, marine pollution control, and biodiversity conservation, supported by research and technological innovation. Marine debris collection and plastic waste reduction efforts have subsequently increased, with coral reef recovery and sea turtle nesting rates improving in protected areas.

Lessons learned:

- Thailand continues to face heightened risks from climate change impacts, including extreme weather events and biodiversity loss, which require intensified adaptation and mitigation efforts.

- Institutional support for youth-led climate initiatives and integration of scientific and local knowledge remain areas for enhancement. Although these areas show promise, they need sustained funding, institutional support, and integration into policy processes.

- Innovation and capacity building are key. Continuous investment in research, technology transfer, and skills development is critical for scaling up green economy practices.

3. If your government is presenting a Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) at the 2025 HLPF, how have your announced national commitments been incorporated or otherwise contributed to your country's national review processes?

- The VNR report uses the national commitments as part of the thematic anchors for presenting data, best practices, and policy innovations. For example, the “leave no one behind” principle guided the use of disaggregated data platforms such as TPMAP and LNOB developed by ESCAP to identify vulnerable populations and support targeted interventions. The health and human rights commitment informed reporting on Universal Health Coverage and gender equality measures. The environmental and climate action commitment shaped the inclusion of Thailand’s Bio-Circular-Green Economy Model, green industry certification programs, and renewable energy initiatives into Thailand’s VNR.

- Moreover, the VNR process has reinforced policy coherence by aligning monitoring and evaluation systems with the national commitments, facilitating evidence-based decision-making and resource allocation. It has also strengthened coordination mechanisms across various sectors to ensure the commitments translate into tangible outcomes at national and local levels.
