

Intervention by Thailand

**Mr. Phanpob Plangprayoon, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative
Human Rights and the 2030 Agenda: Decade of Action and Delivery on the SDGs
3 December 2019, 10:00-18:00 hrs., Room XX, Palais des Nations**

Mr. Chair,

As a member of the Group of Friends on human rights and the 2030 Agenda, Thailand believes in the mutually reinforcing linkages between human rights and the SDGs. To achieve greater synergy and policy coherence in this regard, we are working towards the development of an **online tracking system** to monitor and follow up the country's implementation of human rights obligations and the delivery of the SDGs.

Allow me to briefly highlight two concrete initiatives undertaken by the Thai Government.

First, we are investing in new digital infrastructure that will promote human rights and the SDGs through **digital inclusion**. One major initiative is the **Village Broadband Internet Project or Net Pracharat**. The objective of this project is to close the urban-rural digital divide by expanding high-speed internet network to every village in the country.

As of July 2019, 6.6 million users had registered under this project, and the number is increasing every month. We have also introduced a curriculum on the basic use of the internet and the use of e-commerce to generate supplementary income. The enhanced digital access and digital literacy will bring about tangible improvements in the SDGs and human rights, particularly in the areas of education, health, and access to government services.

Second, we have stepped up efforts to promote **financial inclusion** as a means to promote sustainable development and improve the human rights of people. For example, the **Village and Urban Community Fund** initiative has improved access to finance for local communities, enabling them to translate their local talents into sustainable business at the grass-root level. The Village Fund has also opened up new opportunities for meaningful civic participation and learning within each community. Such economic and financial empowerment at the local level is indeed crucial if we are to realize the SDGs and human rights on the ground.

I thank you.