

Statement by Mr. Suchart Chomklin

Minister of Labour, Thailand

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Mister Madam President,

First, I would like to congratulate the ILO on hosting this Conference in a physical format. It is indeed a positive sign for our recovery.

I wish to thank Director General Ryder for his leadership and efforts during his terms. Before Covid-19, LDC were already facing tests in many areas. Now, achieving SDGs goals can be more difficult. Our partnerships and cooperation cover countries in ASEAN but also Asia and Africa, especially in social security, vocational training and skill standard systems. Thailand therefore supports and commends the Director General's efforts in placing LDC on the important agenda.

The impacts of Covid-19 require us to be resilience. As a founding member of the ILO, Thailand is committed to promote social justice, productive employment and decent work for all, and at the same time maintain inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

In this connection, I would like to share some of Thailand's good practice examples during Covid-19:

First, all-of-government response was used by the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Public Health to combat Covid-19 in workplace. We were able to provide vaccine faster and to all workers of all nationalities. As a result, four million workers got vaccination from the Ministry of Labour.

Second, the Job Retention Scheme for SMEs was able to support four hundred thousand small businesses, retained five million jobs as well as created sixty thousand new jobs.

And third, the Factory Sandbox project was developed to seek a balanced response to Covid-19 effects on health and the economy. Jobs and income of many workers in the manufacturing sector were protected through test, vaccination and isolation. The project supported enterprises, protected workers' health, and at the same time enabled the country to protect more than four hundred thousand jobs and see highest export values in thirty years.

Also important to Thailand is the promotion of quality apprenticeship, as a key to full and productive employment. We therefore strongly support the new standard-setting on apprenticeships.

Before I close, I would like to reaffirm Thailand's commitment to cooperate with the ILO and the international community as we move towards post-Covid recovery. We look forward to a future with productive employment and decent work, where no one is left behind.

Thank you.

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