Madam Moderator, Excellencies and colleagues,

My name is Petcharat Saksirivetkul from Amnesty International Thailand. Amnesty International submitted its own report and supported a child-led submission with Child Rights Connect and a community-led submission on housing rights.

First, Thailand has not yet created a safe and enabling environment for human rights defenders.

At least 35 individuals—including human rights defenders—were targeted with Pegasus spyware between 2020 and 2021. More broadly, children and young people, journalists, academics and environmental defenders face surveillance, smear campaigns, threats and abusive lawsuits, restricting freedom of expression, assembly, association and participation in public affairs.

Documents leaked in 2025 indicated that police and military units operated a joint "Cyber Team". The documents identified at least three human rights civil society organisations—Amnesty International Thailand, Thai Lawyers for Human Rights and iLaw—as "high-value targets" for smear operations. One young defender was reportedly labelled a "high-value target." Angkhana Neelapaijit has received online death threats, yet the National Human Rights Commission declined to investigate. Rural environmental defenders also face intimidation and costly proceedings that deter public-interest advocacy.

We urge states to recommend that Thailand establish an independent and accessible protection mechanism with child-sensitive and gender-responsive procedures; guarantee children and young people's safe and meaningful participation by ending the criminalisation of peaceful expression and assembly and protecting them from surveillance, intimidation and reprisals; investigate threats, unlawful surveillance and state-linked harassment; amend or repeal Section 112 and other laws used to criminalise peaceful expression; decriminalise defamation; and enact effective anti-SLAPP legislation.

Second, Thailand must confront transnational repression and ensure accountability for torture and enforced disappearance.

Thailand's accession to the ICPPED and enactment of the Prevention and Suppression of Torture and Enforced Disappearance Act were important steps. The priority now is full, independent and adequately resourced implementation—not amendments that weaken safeguards. This requires sufficient budgets, independent investigations, detention safeguards, victim and witness protection, public data and effective remedies.

Thailand must also uphold non-refoulement. Recent cases include the killing in Thailand of Lao defender and UNHCR-recognised refugee Bounsuan Kitiyano; the deportation of 40 Uyghurs to China; and the court-approved extradition of Indigenous Montagnard defender Y Quynh Bdap to Viet Nam.

Boat People SOS, or BPSOS, has documented intimidation of refugees by Vietnamese officials inside immigration detention centres, along with violence and alleged torture among detainees that Thai authorities failed to prevent or investigate.

The draft Prime Minister's Office Regulation on Deportation, approved in principle in July 2026, could accelerate removals without adequate safeguards.

We urge states to recommend that Thailand investigate cross-border killings, abductions, enforced disappearances and other acts of transnational repression; investigate violence and alleged torture in immigration detention; and fully fund and independently implement the Act. Thailand should suspend adoption of the draft Regulation until it guarantees individual non-refoulement risk assessments, access to asylum and an independent appeal that automatically suspends removal.

Third, development, land and conservation policies must respect the rights to adequate housing, secure tenure and meaningful participation.

Thailand's second National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights for 2023–2027 remains voluntary, leaving businesses under no legal duty to identify, prevent or mitigate their human rights impacts. The proposed Southern Economic Corridor and Land Bridge may require around 11.2 square kilometres of sea reclamation, while its environmental and health impact assessment reportedly considers impacts only within a five-kilometre radius. Coastal communities, including Moken Indigenous Peoples, risk harm to fisheries, livelihoods, land, housing, health and culture without an enforceable guarantee of free, prior and informed consent. In the Omkoi/Kaboedin coal-mine case, Karen communities challenged an environmental impact assessment affected by inaccurate participation records and language barriers; the Supreme Administrative Court upheld a temporary injunction while the case proceeds.

We urge states to recommend that Thailand adopt mandatory human rights and environmental due-diligence legislation; recognise Indigenous Peoples and guarantee free, prior and informed consent; and reform land, forest and conservation laws to recognise customary and community tenure, prevent forced evictions and provide effective remedies.

One final point: Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases.

Although Thailand has carried out no executions since 2018, courts continue to impose death sentences and no official moratorium exists. We urge states to recommend an immediate official moratorium, commutation of all death sentences, abolition for all crimes, and accession to the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.

Excellencies, Thailand's commitments must protect participation, defenders and access to justice.

Thank you.