



Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

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Summary record of the 2155th meeting

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Thursday, 19 June 2025, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Ms. Haidar

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Consideration of reports submitted by States Parties under article 18 of the Convention (continued)

Eighth periodic report of Thailand (continued) (CEDAW/C/THA/8; CEDAW/C/THA/QPR/8)

1. *At the invitation of the Chair, the delegation of Thailand joined the meeting.*
2. **The Chair** invited the delegation of Thailand to continue replying to questions raised at the previous meeting (CEDAW/C/SR.2154).

Articles 1–6

3. **A representative of Thailand** said that the Committee for the Promotion of Gender Equality, chaired by the Prime Minister, was responsible for formulating policies, measures and operational plans to promote gender equality in the public and private sectors and at the central, regional and local levels; nine of its members were women, two were men and one was a person with disabilities. The Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development served as the secretariat for that Committee as well as for the National Committee on the Policy and Strategy for the Advancement of Women to ensure that the committees' efforts were harmonized.

Articles 7–9

4. **A representative of Thailand** said that Thailand had made progress in the implementation of all the recommendations regarding human rights defenders in its fourth and fifth National Human Rights Plans, including with respect to the amendment of the Witness Protection Act to strengthen protections for human rights defenders, the promotion of initiatives recognizing the positive contributions of human rights defenders, the provision of legal assistance to human rights defenders and of additional resources to officials responsible for protecting human rights defenders, the drafting of legislation on the prevention of strategic lawsuits against public participation and the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, which had entered into force for the country on 13 June 2024. However, no agency had yet been given primary responsibility for the systematic reporting of violations of human rights defenders' rights. The Rights and Liberties Protection Department of the Ministry of Justice was responsible for implementing the National Human Rights Plans and regularly consulted with human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders, regarding drafting, implementation and evaluation of the Plans.

Articles 10–14

5. **Ms. Pia-Comella** said that she would be grateful for information on the State Party's efforts to expand educational opportunities for – and address high dropout rates among – girls from ethnic minorities and migrant and stateless girls, ensure the safety of schoolgirls in the southern border provinces, address the cyberbullying of transgender students in schools and universities and provide training on the rights of transgender students. Further details on the steps taken by the State Party to remove gender-based stereotypes from textbooks would also be appreciated. She wondered how the State Party ensured that its many female university students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics could pursue employment opportunities in those fields. She wished to know what steps the State Party was taking to implement the Prevention and Solution of Adolescent Pregnancy Act of 2016 and the 2018 ministerial announcement that pregnant students should not be forced to leave school and to ensure the delivery of comprehensive, age-appropriate sexual and reproductive education.

6. **A representative of Thailand** said that, to ensure access to education in border areas, special schools had been opened in which border patrol police officers served as teachers. The Government had established the Equitable Education Fund for students with limited resources. There were no discriminatory practices affecting migrant girls' access to education. In Thailand, more women were completing secondary and tertiary education than men, and more women were expected to hold white-collar jobs in the future because of the

gains in education. Of the 5,398 students who had received scholarships for upper secondary to doctoral studies under the Development and Promotion of Science and Technology Talents Project since its inception in 1984, 2,406 had been female.

7. **A representative of Thailand** said that no students had been targeted by the violence committed in connection with the unrest in the southern border provinces. Such violence was generally directed against members of the security forces. The Government prioritized the safety of the public. Students had unrestricted access to education in the area, including at State-funded religious schools.

8. **A representative of Thailand** said that the Government had taken steps to combat the bullying of transgender students. In 2022, the Ministry of Education had launched the Safety Centre, a digital platform for reporting school safety incidents. The Ministry's approach to addressing the problem included, for example, the identification of students at risk of becoming either victims or perpetrators, the establishment of monitoring networks involving both schools and communities, the introduction in school curricula of lessons fostering empathy and coexistence and the provision of follow-up support to both victims and perpetrators; it emphasized mediation rather than disciplinary action.

9. **A representative of Thailand** said that the Ministry of Public Health had developed a comprehensive manual and teaching material on sex education and life skills for adolescents and worked closely with the Ministry of Education to facilitate the delivery of sex education in schools. It collaborated with other agencies on measures designed to address adolescent pregnancy – by, for example, ensuring that adolescents had access to confidential, youth-friendly reproductive health services – and raise awareness of the fundamental right of young people to receive comprehensive sex education and have access to appropriate contraceptive services. Under the “One Hospital One School” initiative, hospitals were encouraged to provide sexual health and contraceptive services directly to students.

10. **Ms. de Silva de Alwis** said that there was a need not only to remove gender bias from textbooks but also to incorporate a new narrative of women's leadership in them. To the extent that generative artificial intelligence would take the place of textbooks, it was important to remove bias from the underlying data and algorithms.

11. **Ms. Akizuki** said that she wished to know how the State Party enforced the provisions of the Labour Protection Act that mandated equal pay for equal work; what steps it was taking to ensure that women working in the informal sector and female migrant workers were covered under social security schemes and by labour protections; how it ensured compliance with legal provisions on maternity leave and the protection of pregnant workers, including those in the informal sector, against unlawful dismissal; whether it planned to introduce legal requirements regarding paternity leave or breastfeeding facilities or to extend the period of maternity leave; how it assessed the impact of its efforts to promote the sharing of household responsibilities; and whether any mechanisms were in place to ensure that protections against sexual harassment were applied in all employment sectors or to monitor and respond to cases of workplace sexual harassment. She would appreciate an update on the State Party's ratification of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189), and Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190).

12. **A representative of Thailand** said that the Government provided intensive job placement services to female workers and had placed more than 140,000 women in employment in 2023 alone. It had been working with ILO since 2021 to increase women's participation in fields relating to science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The provision of breastfeeding facilities in workplaces was being encouraged.

13. The Social Security Office had expanded coverage for informal workers under the voluntary insurance scheme. In 2025, a total of almost 25 million persons were insured, of whom some 13 million were female workers. Additional benefits such as a maternity allowance, a child allowance for up to three children and a reduced contribution rate were also available. A bill to facilitate the transition of informal workers to formal employment was before the Cabinet. The Labour Protection Act was being amended to address childcare and promote the equal sharing of family responsibilities. Under the Labour Protection Act of 1998, women migrant workers were protected against sexual harassment and pregnancy-related dismissal and were entitled to 98 days of paid maternity leave.

14. The Department of Labour Protection and Welfare had primary responsibility for ensuring compliance, in all sectors, with the legal prohibition on workplace sexual harassment, which covered both physical and verbal misconduct. Multiple reporting channels had been established, including a hotline and an online platform, and complaints could be made directly to labour inspectors. Officials were trained in how to conduct independent investigations and protect the identity of complainants. All complaints procedures incorporated a strict confidentiality protocol. Bills on the ratification of ILO Conventions No. 189 and No. 190 had been submitted to the Cabinet for consideration.

15. **Ms. Akizuki** said that she wished to know whether there were any plans to formalize employment pathways for migrant workers and to allow them to change employers freely.

16. **A representative of Thailand** said that the Government took steps to ensure that migrant women workers and Thai workers were treated equally, in line with human rights principles and international labour standards. Migrant women workers were issued with work permits and visas to bring them into the formal employment system and guarantee their protection. Migrant workers' employment contracts were scrutinized to ensure that the workers concerned would have access to fair working conditions and any benefits to which they were entitled.

17. The Government provided legal guidance on the rights and duties established under national labour laws and took steps to deal with labour-related complaints, including those concerning unsafe working conditions or discrimination. It also collaborated with the relevant agencies to prevent and suppress trafficking in persons. Registration procedures for migrant workers had been streamlined to ensure their prompt access to protection. Digital applications with accessible multilingual menus were being developed for migrant workers. Interpretation services were provided to facilitate migrant workers' access to labour courts and legal assistance, and compensation mechanisms were made available for them.

18. **Ms. Peláez Narváez** said that she wished to know whether the State Party would amend the Criminal Code to fully decriminalize abortion and abolish the requirement for mandatory counselling after the twelfth week of pregnancy for those seeking a termination. Given that abortion services were provided by only 10 per cent of hospitals, the vast majority of which were private, she wondered what measures were taken to ensure access to abortion for all women throughout the country. What was being done to reduce the stigma surrounding abortion and to prevent healthcare staff from refusing to carry out abortions on grounds of conscience?

19. It would be useful to have information on any steps being taken to prevent women with disabilities from being subjected to forced sterilization and abortion and to ensure their access to healthcare and sexual and reproductive rights. Details of any mechanisms used to identify violations of the rights of women with disabilities, punish the perpetrators and provide redress to victims would be welcome.

20. She wished to know what was being done to combat female genital mutilation in the southern border provinces and ensure access to culturally appropriate sexual and reproductive healthcare for Muslim women living in those provinces. In addition, it would be useful to learn what was being done to ensure access to healthcare for Indigenous women, rural women and women in detention.

21. She would welcome details of any measures being taken to prevent the screening of women for HIV/AIDS without their consent and the forced sterilization of women living with HIV/AIDS as a condition of receiving treatment. She wondered how the State Party ensured access to antiretroviral therapy for women who consumed drugs, women sex workers, transgender persons, refugee women, women asylum-seekers, migrant women and other women living with HIV/AIDS who belonged to vulnerable groups.

22. **A representative of Thailand** said that the Ministry of Public Health had published a standard operating procedure for safe abortion services, along with clear guidelines to ensure that women using abortion services were treated with dignity and fairness and were not stigmatized. The mandatory counselling services for women seeking an abortion between the twelfth and twentieth weeks of pregnancy were designed to be comprehensive, unbiased and confidential and did not involve any coercion. After the twentieth week of pregnancy,

abortion was permitted only if the pregnancy posed a risk to the pregnant woman's health or in cases of severe fetal abnormality.

23. Access to abortion services could be obtained through one-stop crisis centres operated by the Ministry of Public Health or by contacting a hotline managed by the Department of Health. Public health campaigns were conducted to disseminate information about abortion. Medical staff received specialized training in the provision of ethical and rights-based abortion services. A network of healthcare facilities were equipped to conduct safe abortions. The referral system for safe abortions gave women access to doctors, nurses, pharmacists, social workers and other healthcare staff from public and private healthcare providers across the country. A total of 138 doctors and 432 other healthcare workers volunteered for the system. Over 260 service units in 42 provinces were registered to provide medication to induce abortion.

24. The Ministry of Public Health was unequivocally opposed to forced contraception, which it viewed as a violation of human rights. Under national healthcare policy, women and girls with disabilities enjoyed the right to bodily autonomy and human dignity. The Persons with Disabilities Empowerment Act of 2007 guaranteed the human rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, along with equitable access to public facilities and services. The purpose of the second National Reproductive Health Development Strategy for 2017–2026 was to promote quality and inclusive childbirth services, including for persons with disabilities. Reproductive health rights were a central consideration in the country's strategy for the development of women with disabilities. The Prevention and Solution of Adolescent Pregnancy Act emphasized the right of adolescents to make decisions about their reproductive health and to obtain access to information and services. In principle, that right was also enjoyed by young persons with disabilities.

25. The Government recognized that women with disabilities were particularly vulnerable to sexual violence. However, its response to that situation was based on the strengthening of protective frameworks. The free and informed consent of women was required before any medical procedure was carried out; that principle was non-negotiable. Women victims of violence, including women with disabilities, could obtain comprehensive protection and support from the national network of one-stop crisis centres.

26. No individuals were subjected to HIV screening unless they had voluntarily given their consent. The results of HIV tests were kept confidential. No one was forced to undergo sterilization as a condition of receiving treatment for HIV. Sterilization could be performed only with the free and informed consent of the person concerned.

27. **Ms. Peláez Narváez** said that she wished to know how the State Party guaranteed the right to health, including sexual and reproductive health, of women detained in prisons or other institutions, such as psychiatric centres or facilities for persons with disabilities. How were they provided with access to, for example, breast and gynaecological cancer prevention and antiretroviral therapy for HIV/AIDS?

28. **A representative of Thailand** said that the Government had taken a number of steps to address the health requirements of women prisoners. Almost 10 years previously, the "Inspire" project had been launched to improve standards for pregnant inmates and incarcerated mothers living with their children in prison. Another project was aimed at raising healthcare standards for all prisoners, including women. Since 2002, prisoners had been included in the universal coverage health scheme and prison health services had formed part of the broader public health system. As a result, healthcare services for women inmates had improved, physical activity was promoted and screening programmes for non-communicable diseases, such as breast cancer, were carried out.

29. The Government promoted rehabilitation programmes for women inmates. It also made efforts to improve their quality of life and complied with the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules). The universal coverage health scheme included a mental health programme. Prisoners had access to telemedicine, including for mental health conditions. A referral system had been established to refer former prisoners to hospitals so that they could continue to be treated following their release.

30. **Ms. Al-Shukairi** said that she wished to know what measures would be taken to reduce gender gaps in the provision of social security and to expand maternity and family benefits, especially for rural, ethnic minority and migrant women and for refugee women residing in camps, irrespective of their legal status. She wondered whether pension schemes would be reviewed to ensure that they provided adequate support for older women and whether such schemes had been integrated into broader social protection policies.

31. She would appreciate information on any policies established to ensure equal access to financial services, e-marketing, land and housing for all women, including those belonging to marginalized groups. It would be useful to learn whether any alternative finance mechanisms had been established for women who lacked collateral and whether gender-disaggregated data were used in developing and assessing policies.

32. Women from rural communities faced barriers to participation in male-dominated sports such as Thai boxing, or Muay Thai, despite the opportunities for empowerment offered by such sports. She would therefore welcome details of the measures being taken to promote the participation of disadvantaged women and girls in sports and culture. She wondered how those efforts aligned with national initiatives to promote innovation and the economy.

33. **A representative of Thailand** said that the purpose of the Women's Development Fund was to provide women with low-interest or interest-free revolving funds for investment in businesses, job creation and economic empowerment. The Fund was intended to strengthen women's networks and improve women's quality of life. It was also aimed at promoting women's leadership and strengthening the capacities of women's organizations. Currently, the Fund had about 17 million members, including about 600,000 in the three southernmost provinces. The Fund had mechanisms for promoting the transfer of knowledge among its members and developing their marketing skills. Between 2013 and 2024, it had allocated around 17 billion baht (B) in loans to women around the country.

34. **Ms. de Silva de Alwis** said that, according to data provided by the World Bank, women's small and medium-sized enterprises lacked access to bank loans for working capital and to investment financing; in fact, only 15 per cent of women-led small and medium-sized enterprises had access to investment financing.

35. **A representative of Thailand** said that the Government had established an office for the promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises, which was working to increase access to loans for women entrepreneurs.

36. **Ms. Akia** said that she wished to know what measures were being taken to ensure that women with disabilities, Indigenous and ethnic minority women, women living in rural, highland or remote areas, migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and Muslim women could exercise all their economic, social and cultural rights, including the rights to education, health, water, sanitation facilities, justice, safety, property, credit and participation in decision-making. She wondered what was being done to strengthen coordination and collaboration between national mechanisms, including those responsible for allocating financial resources to advance the rights of women and girls.

37. In the light of reports that Thai prisons were seriously overcrowded and did not provide appropriate facilities for pregnant or breastfeeding women, it would be useful to know what the State Party was doing to implement the Bangkok Rules and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules). She would also like to know whether the State Party would consider amending article 64 of the Immigration Act to decriminalize the provision of assistance to undocumented migrants.

38. She would appreciate details of any steps being taken to ensure that climate financing, adaptation and mitigation strategies met the specific needs of women and girls and that women and girls participated in the development, implementation, evaluation and monitoring of the strategies. Given the economic importance of agriculture and the blue economy, it would be interesting to hear what was being done to ensure that those industries were sustainable, inclusive and resilient to climate change and would help to lift women and girls out of poverty. Information on any measures being implemented to protect women and girls from the harmful effects of air pollution would be welcome. She would be grateful for data, disaggregated by age, sex, disability and location, on the impact of air pollution.

39. **A representative of Thailand** said that prison authorities were required to ensure that each inmate had 1.6 m² of living space, which could be increased to 2.25 m² when a prison was operating below capacity. Inmates in overcrowded facilities could be transferred to others nearby to relieve the pressure. Facilities should have at least one bathroom per dormitory and were cleaned and disinfected daily. Dormitories were well ventilated. Inmates received three nutritious meals each day; special food for Muslim inmates was prepared separately. Facilities had an adequate supply of drinking water, which was regularly tested to ensure that it met water quality standards.

40. Women accounted for 12.5 per cent of the approximately 296,000 prisoners in the country. The Department of Corrections promoted the use of alternatives to detention for women. Under the law, the Department's Director General was entitled to instruct the authorities to hold inmates in facilities other than traditional prisons. The Department had set up a dedicated committee to review requests for the implementation of alternatives to detention and, together with the Ministry of Public Health, was developing the systems and programmes required to increase their use, including for pregnant women and members of other vulnerable groups.

41. **A representative of Thailand** said that the budget allocated to the Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development for the current fiscal year was B 524 million, which represented an increase of approximately 5 per cent on the previous year. A gender dimension had been incorporated into a number of government funds, including those established to address matters such as gender equality, trafficking in persons, child protection, support for older persons and persons with disabilities and the promotion of social welfare. The Department was working to improve the collection of gender-disaggregated data and raise awareness of women's issues in order to support its efforts to secure more funding.

42. The national adaptation plan in the area of climate change, which had been approved in April 2024, highlighted the need to ensure gender equality in climate planning and decision-making activities. As part of the adaptation process, steps were being taken to improve the healthcare provided to vulnerable groups and guarantee access to emergency aid for children, older persons, persons with disabilities or chronic conditions, pregnant women and outdoor workers. A climate adaption project was being conducted in agricultural areas in the south and north-east of the country with support from international partners. Activities organized through the project had included the development of local agricultural adaptation plans and guidelines on adaptation for vulnerable farming communities, the improvement of early warning systems and the training of local agricultural officers. A guide on gender-responsive climate budgeting had been created to help government agencies to integrate a gender perspective into their climate budgeting processes. In July 2025, the Government and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) would hold a workshop offering participants the opportunity to discuss the promotion of human rights and gender equality as part of climate and disaster risk reduction efforts, the link between gender and climate change and gender-responsive climate financing and reporting systems.

43. **A representative of Thailand** said that a response to the question on the blue economy would be submitted in writing.

Articles 15 and 16

44. **Ms. Tisheva** said that she would like to know what steps the State Party had taken to tackle forced marriage and remove the exceptions to the prohibition on marriage before the age of 18 years, in particular in regions where children continued to be married subject to court authorization or parental consent. The delegation might describe what action was planned to harmonize the Islamic family and inheritance laws applied in the southern border provinces with the State Party's civil law and international obligations, especially those under the Convention, and specify what the time frame for such action was and by which body it would be taken. She wondered whether members of provincial Islamic committees and religious leaders had been invited to participate in capacity-building programmes to address gender-related disparities in marital and divorce rights. It would be helpful to learn what was being done to overcome the systemic barriers faced by Muslim women in obtaining a divorce

under Islamic law, which meant that they were often obliged to seek informal separations that left them open to exploitation.

45. She wished to know what measures had been adopted to promote the registration as marriages of unions entered into under religious or customary laws in the southern border provinces and what was being done to guarantee that women in such unions enjoyed equal rights to property, inheritance and child custody and access to legal remedies. It would be interesting to hear about any legislative reforms that would be introduced to abolish the requirement, under the Civil Code, for female divorcees and widows to wait for 310 days after their divorce or the death of their husband before remarrying. She would welcome information on the steps being taken to enforce the prohibition on polygamous unions and the work being carried out with women's rights organizations to tackle the cultural and religious beliefs that were invoked to justify the practice.

46. **A representative of Thailand** said that the Government had been working closely with religious leaders, civil society organizations and academics in the southern border provinces to promote the application of Islamic family law in a manner that was consistent with human rights standards. The Southern Border Provinces Administrative Centre had disseminated a handbook on Islamic family and inheritance laws among provincial Islamic committees, the courts and the general public. Muslim women had been trained to work in counselling centres set up to promote women's empowerment and had been hired as mediation assistants in family and inheritance disputes handled by the provincial Islamic committees.

47. **A representative of Thailand** said that the Government and the courts had taken a number of measures to protect the rights and freedoms of Muslim citizens. The Prime Minister was currently examining a proposal to establish a platform for the organization of public hearings on issues under Islamic family law. The Central Islamic Council of Thailand had issued regulations concerning the marriage of individuals under the age of 17 and was creating a one-day course for couples in the southern border provinces who planned to marry. The course would cover topics such as the marriage-related provisions of Islamic law, the roles and responsibilities of married couples, parenting and the prevention of domestic violence.

48. **A representative of Thailand** said that female divorcees or widows who wished to remarry before the end of the 310-day period could do so provided that they obtained a medical certificate confirming that they were not pregnant.

49. **Ms. de Silva de Alwis** said that she would like to know whether the State Party would consider criminalizing triple talaq divorce and issuing guidelines to ensure that women who had been subjected to the practice would receive spousal support.

50. **Ms. Tisheva** said that she would welcome information on the composition of the Central Islamic Council of Thailand and whether it would issue divorce certificates to women who had faced domestic violence.

51. **A representative of Thailand** said that the issue of triple talaq divorce would be examined by the Southern Border Provinces Administrative Centre.

52. **A representative of Thailand** said that a number of measures had been introduced to address the long-term impact of air pollution on the health of women, including pregnant women and women of childbearing age. "Clean air" rooms had been established in health facilities, childcare establishments and schools in high-risk areas. Masks and anti-dust nets were distributed to pregnant women, young children, older persons and persons with chronic conditions. Air quality alerts were issued to inform the population of periods of high air pollution, during which individuals could work from home and outdoor activities were suspended. Online pollution clinics had been established to provide consultations to members of vulnerable groups, and village health volunteers conducted door-to-door outreach activities and screening. A platform had been established to enable individuals to report any symptoms linked to exposure to fine particulate matter, with a view to ensuring that they received a timely diagnosis and appropriate medical care. Emergency health teams had been set up at the provincial and district levels to monitor and care for members of vulnerable groups, who could also be transferred to temporary evacuation centres.

53. **A representative of Thailand** said that the suggestions and recommendations made by the Committee would be discussed by the relevant stakeholders with a view to translating them into concrete action. The Government hoped to continue the dialogue with the Committee and other United Nations human rights mechanisms in order to advance the implementation of the Convention at both the national and international levels.

54. **The Chair** said that she wished to thank the delegation for its participation in the constructive dialogue and encourage the State Party to take all measures necessary to give effect to the recommendations in the Committee's concluding observations.

The meeting rose at 5 p.m.