



PRESS RELEASE

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Thailand Reaffirms Commitment to the Elimination of Forced Labor in Compliance with the ILO Forced Labor Convention (No.29)

Washington, D.C. – The Thai delegation to this week's meeting of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Governing Body in Geneva made a statement today reaffirming Thailand's commitment to elimination of forced labor in the nation and clarifying its position regarding the vote on the new ILO instrument to supplement the Forced Labour Convention (No. 29) made on 11 June 2014.

The statement by Ms. Patana Bhandhufalk, Labor Attaché at Thailand Permanent Mission to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva, delivered to the 321st session of the ILO Governing Body today reads as follows:

"I would like to thank the Chair for the opportunity extended to my delegation to explain our position regarding the vote on the new ILO instrument to supplement the Forced Labour Convention (No. 29), 1930 held on 11 June 2014, which Thailand voted only for the Recommendation. My delegation would like to reaffirm Thailand's commitment to and recognition of the significance of the elimination of forced labour in compliance with the Forced Labour Convention (No.29). Thai law provides all workers in Thailand with protection in relation to working conditions as well as related benefits regardless of nationality. This includes protection against forced labour. Nevertheless, to adopt any specific instrument, we have to seriously consider our own readiness to implement such an instrument, in conformity with the entire instrument's context and the relevant Thai laws.

At the vote on the new ILO instrument to supplement the Forced Labour Convention (No. 29), 1930, Thailand therefore did not vote in favor of the Protocol but voted in support of the Recommendation, as it could be promptly implemented and further developed through existing laws. However, given the importance of the issue, and our strong commitment to eliminate forced or compulsory labor, the Thai delegation has consulted further with our capital at the policy level where upon we have decided to join the consensus in adopting the said Protocol, bearing in mind our need to proceed in accordance with our domestic requirements."
