



SUMMARY REPORT

AICHR WORKSHOP ON POVERTY ERADICATION AND ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE ASEAN HUMAN RIGHTS DECLARATION (AHRD) AND UN 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

LUANG PRABANG, Lao PDR, 04-05 DECEMBER 2025

INTRODUCTION:

1. AICHR Workshop on Poverty Eradication and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the context of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) and UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aimed to share national and regional views on the implementation of Economic, Social, Cultural Rights through AHRD and UN 2030 Agenda for SDGs in supporting the poverty eradication among ASEAN Member States. It provided a platform for ASEAN Member States. The AICHR Workshop has asserted its efforts and expressed political views and commitment to “narrow the development gap among member states to reduce poverty and socio-economic disparity in the region”. A number of relevant and key initiatives/programmes have been put into action, namely: Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI), Master Plan for ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) and ASEAN Smart Cities Networks (ASCN), to contribute to the improvement of the well-being and lives of ASEAN people as well as the socio-economic development of ASEAN countries. The agenda of the Workshop appears as **ANNEX 1**.
2. The Workshop was chaired by H.E. Amb. Yong Chanthalangsy, Representative of Lao PDR to AICHR.
3. The Workshop brought together representatives from ASEAN Member States, including government officials and experts such as AICHR Representatives, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Human Rights, the Cambodian Human

Rights Committee, the National University of Laos, other relevant ministries of ASEAN Member States, ASEAN Secretariat, Lao Human Rights Focal Points and Business Entrepreneurs. The list of participants appears as ANNEX 2.

OPENING SESSION

- 4. H.E. Ambassador Yong Chantalangsy**, Representative of the Lao PDR to AICHR, delivered his opening remarks. He warmly welcomed all participants to the AICHR Workshop on Poverty Eradication and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and congratulated Timor-Leste on joining the ASEAN family. He highlighted that ASEAN, now comprising 11 member states, has long been committed to reducing development gaps and poverty through key regional initiatives such as the Initiative for ASEAN Integration, the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity, and the ASEAN Smart Cities Network. Despite these efforts, ASEAN continues to face challenges in promoting and protecting economic, social, and cultural rights, including the right to development—recognized in the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration as central to poverty eradication. He reaffirmed ASEAN’s commitment to achieving the UN 2030 Agenda, particularly SDG 1 on ending poverty in all its forms everywhere. His remarks also emphasized the importance of the ASEAN Declaration on Promoting the Right to Development and the Right to Peace, adopted at the 47th ASEAN Summit. This declaration mandates AICHR and relevant ASEAN bodies to advance inclusive and sustainable development and peace through ASEAN-led cooperation, aligned with ASEAN 2045 and grounded in human rights principles such as equality, non-discrimination, and meaningful participation. H.E. Ambassador Yong further highlighted Lao PDR’s progress in implementing the SDGs, including the integration of SDG targets into national plans, improvements in statistical systems, and the submission of its third Voluntary National Review in 2024. Eleven SDGs continue to demonstrate good progress, with notable achievements in SDGs 10 and 15. However, SDGs 16 and 17 require greater attention, and several SDGs face challenges due to limited or inconsistent data. As the 9th Five-Year National Socio-Economic Development Plan approaches its conclusion in 2025, the Lao PDR is preparing the 10th Plan (2026–2030), which will guide the country’s final phase toward achieving the SDG 2030 targets. The new plan will continue to prioritize the principle of “Leaving No One Behind,” particularly for vulnerable groups. Financing remains a key challenge, and Lao PDR continues to seek technical and financial assistance from international partners. He concluded by

encouraging active participation in the workshop's discussions and expressing gratitude to all organizers, partners, and participants. The workshop was then officially declared open.

SESSION 1: Sharing the overall implementation of the economic, social and cultural rights through AHRD and UN 2030 Agenda for SDGs in supporting the poverty eradication in ASEAN Member States

This session was moderated by **H.E. Amb. Yong Chanthalangsy**, Representative of Lao PDR to AICHR.

5. Prof. Bhanubhatra Jittieng, Representative of Thailand to AICHR, presented Thailand's approach to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), emphasizing integration with economic, social, and cultural rights. Thailand aligns SDGs with national plans, guided by the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration and the sufficiency economy philosophy, which promotes moderation, resilience, and sustainability. Despite progress, 3 million people (4.8% of the population) remain in poverty, particularly in rural agricultural areas affected by floods. Key initiatives include universal health coverage, 15 years of free education, and community-based programs supporting food security, decent work, and sustainable cities. Cultural preservation is emphasized through the 2025 Protection and Promotion of Ethnic Ways of Life Act, ensuring ethnic groups' participation in development and safeguarding local customs. Thailand integrates SDGs into its 20-year national development plan, using data-driven approaches, community engagement, and local wisdom to achieve inclusive development. Challenges include rising living costs, population growth, and climate vulnerability, but Thailand remains committed to rights-based, sustainable, and inclusive development.

6. Ms. Sharon Ho Swee Peng, Undersecretary of the Human Rights and Humanitarian Division, Department of Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, highlighted Malaysia's Human Rights-Based Approach to Poverty Eradication. She underlined that Malaysia adopts a rights-based and inclusive development strategy grounded in the Madani Economy framework, which emphasizes justice, inclusivity, sustainability, and ethical governance. Malaysia views poverty as a fundamental human rights issue. Malaysia's poverty eradication efforts are in line with the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ICESCR principles, and UPR recommendations. Among the key national frameworks that integrate human rights principles include Sharing Prosperity Vision 2030 and the 13th Malaysia Plan

(RMK-13). She outlined Malaysia's Rights-Based National Planning model, which aligns anti-poverty measures with relevant AHRD provisions: Article 28 on social security through targeted financial assistance; Article 30 on an adequate standard of living through housing and nutrition programmes; Article 31 on the right to education through access to schooling, TVET, and skills training; and Article 32 on the right to health through universal healthcare initiatives. These efforts address both rural and urban poverty, with focused on women, indigenous peoples, and persons with disabilities. Ms. Ho reported tangible progress of Malaysia's poverty eradication measures. For instance, Absolute poverty declined from 6.2% in 2022 to 5.1% in 2024; rural poverty fell from 12.0% to 10.0%; urban poverty decreased to 3.7%; and hardcore poverty has been nearly eradicated. She also highlighted Malaysia's rights-based budgeting and key programmes, including targeted cash assistance, the health protection scheme, the affordable housing programme, the national poverty registry, and the Central socio-economic Database Hub (PADU). These initiatives prioritise marginalised groups such as the Orang Asli, rural and urban poor, and single mothers. She underscored the importance of community participation, noting that civil society engagement is central to programme design and implementation. On monitoring and accountability, Malaysia utilises human rights indicators, the Poverty Line Income (PLI), the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), and Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) to strengthen evidence-based policymaking. Ms. Ho also identified persistent challenges that must be addressed. These include regional and income disparities, data gaps for remote communities, climate change, rapid urbanisation, the digital divide, and the need for sustainable long-term financing. Looking ahead, Malaysia plans to expand rights-based social protection, strengthen data systems, enhance climate resilience and urban development, bridge the digital divide, and deepen community participation. She concluded by reaffirming Malaysia's commitment to a rights-based and inclusive development approach, closely aligned with regional and international human rights principles, ensuring that no one is left behind.

- 7. Mr. Phetvanxay Khouasakoun**, Deputy Director of Division, Department of International Organization, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, emphasized that the meeting discussed Laos' progress in poverty eradication and SDG integration. Laos has achieved 93% electricity coverage, a key driver for development, and is preparing to graduate from LDC status by 2026. Challenges include funding, capacity, and data collection. The Helping Hand program targets vulnerable groups, and the national social protection strategy aims to enhance education and health access. He highlighted the importance of localizing SDGs,

addressing climate resilience, and ensuring community involvement. Thailand shared its experience with electrification and urban re-impoverishment, emphasizing the need for coordinated efforts and public awareness. He discussed Laos' consistent prioritization of poverty eradication and integration of MDGs and SDGs into national development plans. He explained the comprehensive nature of the SDGs compared to the MDGs, with 18 goals instead of eight. He described the process of integrating SDG indicators into national development plans, emphasizing alignment with existing priorities. He mentioned the importance of mobilizing funding from development partners and international organizations. He highlighted challenges in SDG Localization and Implementation. Laos addresses the challenges of SDG localization, including the mindset that SDGs are distant and abstract. He introduced a professor from a local university as a brand ambassador for SDGs, promoting awareness in schools and universities. He highlighted the importance of targeted social assistance programs, such as the Helping Hand program for vulnerable group. He discussed the national social protection strategy, aimed at strengthening health insurance schemes, and provided allowances for students from poor families. Lastly, Funding and Capacity Challenges, he identified funding, capacity, and ownership as the primary challenges in implementing SDGs at the local level. He mentioned the additional challenge of data collection, particularly disaggregated data, for policy formulation. He shared a unique challenge specific to Laos: the presence of unexploded ordnance (UXO) and its impact on the population. He discussed the declining trend in international funding and the need for a smooth transition strategy to address this.

SESSION 2: Sharing good practices and lessons learnt among ASEAN Member States regarding to the UN 2030 Agenda for SDGs from general to specific approaches (national to provincial levels)

This session was moderated by **Associate Professor Eugene K.B.Tan**, Representative of Singapore to AICHR

8. **H.E. Amb. U Nyunt Swe**, Representative of Myanmar to AICHR, highlighted Myanmar's perspective on the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP). Myanmar's approach to the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through its Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP) 2018–2030. Myanmar prioritizes on

the SDGs: ending poverty in all its forms, ending hunger while achieving food security and sustainable agriculture, ensuring healthy lives and well-being for all, and providing inclusive and quality education to foster lifelong learning. Despite global efforts, the SDGs Report 2025 shows uneven progress, with only 35% of targets on track, nearly half progressing too slowly, and 18% moving in reverse. He presented the MSDP envisioning a people-centered economy that promotes inclusive and continuous development while supporting national reconciliation. The MSDP aims to balance the mobilization and allocation of natural resources across States and Regions, foster national unity, achieve balanced economic development, create opportunities for a skilled new generation, and establish an economic system capable of sustaining positive outcomes through citizen participation, innovation, and effort. By aligning local development needs with the global SDG framework, the MSDP seeks to balance economic growth, social development, and environmental sustainability, recognizing that without sound environmental governance, rapid development could exacerbate issues such as deforestation, mangrove loss, illegal wildlife trade, unregulated mineral extraction, pollution, waste accumulation, and climate change. Structurally, the MSDP is organized around three pillars, five goals, 28 strategies, and 251 action plans, all closely aligned with the SDGs. The first pillar is Peace and Stability, focuses on national reconciliation, security, good governance, and macroeconomic management. The second pillar is Prosperity and Partnership, emphasizes job creation and private sector-led growth. The third, People and Planet, seeks to develop human resources and social infrastructure while ensuring sustainable management of natural resources and the environment. Implementation prioritizes poverty alleviation and socio-economic development, particularly in rural areas, where approximately 70% of the population resides. Strategies include promoting inclusive agriculture and aquaculture to enhance productivity and reduce poverty, investing in rural infrastructure such as water supply, electrification, roads, and bridges, and improving access to education and healthcare to address the higher rural poverty rate (30.2%) compared with urban areas (11.3%). Additionally, diversification from agriculture to non-agricultural and agro-based industries is encouraged to enhance household incomes, improve livelihoods, and support sustainable development nationwide. Overall, Myanmar's MSDP represents a comprehensive effort to integrate global SDG objectives with national priorities, promoting peace, prosperity, human development, and environmental sustainability to build a more resilient and inclusive future.

9. **Ms. Siriorn Aromdee**, Justice Officer, Department of Rights and Liberties Protection, Ministry of Justice of Thailand, presented the mechanism of implementation of SDGs by the Rights and Liberties Protection Department (RLPD), which plays a central role in linking human rights protection with poverty reduction within Thailand’s sustainable development framework. Thailand aligns its national policies with the SDGs through key instruments: the 13th National Economic and Social Development Plan (2023–2027), which emphasizes value-based economic growth, reducing inequality, and maintaining environmental balance; the 5th National Human Rights Plan (2023–2027), focusing on debt relief, SME support, and financial literacy; and the 2nd National Action Plan on Business & Human Rights, which promotes responsible business practices and labor rights. Collectively, these policies contribute to poverty alleviation by protecting community rights, ensuring fair wages and safe working conditions, and promoting social and economic inclusion. RLPD implements a wide range of programs, including free legal advice through Happy Justice Centre, Justice Provincial Office, online platforms, complaint management via online systems and hotlines, and protection of the rights of the accused, particularly in serious criminal cases and for minors. The department also provides interpreter services in multiple languages, legal education, paralegal training, and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, ensuring access to justice for vulnerable populations such as ethnic communities, migrant workers, LGBTI individuals, and other marginalized groups. These efforts have successfully mediated over 62,000 cases, resulting in significant cost savings and improved civil status recognition. Despite challenges such as limited legal knowledge, political constraints, and broader national circumstances, RLPD continues to create opportunities by sharing best practices, raising awareness, and strengthening human rights protections. Overall, the RLPD demonstrates how rights protection, legal support, and social justice initiatives can effectively contribute to poverty eradication, reflecting Thailand’s strong commitment to the SDGs and inclusive development.
10. **Mr. Muhammad Rizal Khoiri, S.IP., M.A., Officer at the Department of Human Rights Instrument Development and Evaluation, Ministry of Human Rights of Indonesia**, presented Indonesia’s best practices, focusing on strengthening health and education as key strategies for poverty eradication. He emphasized that poverty constitutes a human rights violation, as it undermines human dignity and restricts access to essential rights such as food, health, housing, education, and social security. He

underscored that poverty is caused not only by limited resources but also by a lack of political will, noting that extreme poverty and inequality remain major challenges across ASEAN. He stressed that Member States have a responsibility to address poverty through stronger national policies and enhanced international cooperation. He outlined Indonesia's commitment to poverty reduction, aligned with human rights principles and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Indonesia implemented several key social protection programs, including: Family Hope Program (PKH): A conditional cash transfer initiative aimed at reducing poverty and vulnerability. Universal Health Coverage (UHC): As of 2025, coverage has reached 98.45% of the population, including government-assisted contributions for nearly 96.8 million poor beneficiaries. Education Cash Assistance (PIP): Providing educational support for more than 18 million students annually. Village Fund Program: Supporting local economic development and significantly reducing the number of disadvantaged villages. He also highlighted the government's new flagship initiatives, such as the free nutrition meal program, boarding schools for students from poor families, rural cooperatives, and the development of modern fishing villages. To sustain these programs, Indonesia is strengthening its fiscal capacity through anti-corruption efforts, energy subsidy reforms, expenditure realignment, and the expansion of national financial instruments, including education endowment funds, sovereign wealth mechanisms, and consolidated state-owned enterprise holdings. He concluded by reaffirming Indonesia's commitment to promoting human rights, reducing poverty, and enhancing regional cooperation within ASEAN to ensure inclusive and sustainable development.

SESSION 3: Connecting the UN 2030 Agenda for SDGs into Economic, Social and Cultural Development in the nation and regional levels

- **This session was moderated by H.E. Amb. U Nyunt Swe**, Representative of Myanmar to AICHR

11. Mr. Chenda Sreang, the Cambodian Human Rights Committee, presented Cambodia's progress, challenges, and priorities in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development from a human rights perspective. He highlighted that the 2030 Agenda is not merely a list of aspirations; it is a universal compact, a recognition that development can no longer be achieved in silos. Poverty (SDG 1) cannot be solved without addressing climate

action (SDG 13); economic growth (SDG 8) is meaningless without gender equality (SDG 5). Cambodia, having transitioned from a post-conflict nation to a lower-middle-income country, views the SDGs not as an external imposition, but as a critical tool to accelerate its journey towards upper-middle-income status by 2030, and high-income status by 2050. (The Foundation: CSDGs and National Strategy) Cambodia's commitment to the 2030 Agenda is demonstrated through its process of localization, resulting in the Cambodia Sustainable Development Goals, or CSDGs. The CSDGs are not a replica of the global goals; they are a bespoke framework, adding an essential 18th goal: **CSDG 18: End the negative impact of mines and unexploded ordnance and promote victim assistance**. This localization is an example of aligning global targets with unique national history and priorities. This framework is deeply embedded in the nation's core governance mechanism, particularly the current national development strategies, such as the **Pentagonal Strategy – Phase I** (2023-2028). These strategies provide the operational architecture for integration, specifically by including targeted policies for poverty reduction, rural development, access to health care and education, gender equality, and environmental sustainability, etc.

12. The 2030 Agenda is driving change across the three interconnected pillars of development in Cambodia. First pillar, Economic Development: Cambodia's economic structure has shifted from an economy that relied on traditional agriculture to a modern economy based on smart agriculture, industry, service, and construction. Achieving CSDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) now demands an economic shift that is more resilient, competitive, and knowledge-driven such as Economic Diversification aligned with CSDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) and Green Economy, Environment and Climate Change (CSDG7). Second pillar, Social Development: The social pillar is perhaps where the CSDGs have had the most direct impact, ensuring that Cambodia's hard-won economic success translates into improved well-being for all citizens, such as Poverty Eradication and Social Protection (CSDG1), Health and Education (CSDG 3 & 4), and Gender Equality (CSDG5). Third pillar, Cultural Development: The cultural pillar is often overlooked but is fundamental to sustainable development (CSDG 11, Sustainable Cities and Communities), particularly, Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Tourism, social cohesion and identity (CSDG16).
13. Cambodia does not exist in isolation. Its success is intrinsically linked to the stability and prosperity of the ASEAN Community. Therefore, our national CSDG agenda must align with the region's vision. The key instrument for this alignment is the **Complementarities Initiative**

between the UN 2030 Agenda and the **ASEAN Community Vision 2025** (and the succeeding Post-2025 Vision).

SESSION 4: Sharing specific goals and their significant achievements and lessons learnt among ASEAN Member States regarding to the poverty eradication, the health sector, and the education sector.

This session was moderated by H.E. Amb. Trung Thanh Nguyen, Representative of

Vietnam to AICHR

- 14. Ms. Anita Wahid, Representative of Indonesia to AICHR**, joined the session virtually and introduced ASEAN's socio-economic challenges and Vision 2045. She highlighted the region's rapid urbanization, technological adoption, and economic growth, while emphasizing the diversity and persistent disparities among ASEAN Member States. The poverty reduction has progressed unevenly, particularly in rural, border, and post-conflict areas. Health systems also vary widely, and education systems face challenges related to quality, equity, financing, digital access, and learning outcomes. The COVID-19 pandemic and climate-related disasters have further reversed gains in education, livelihoods, and health services. ASEAN's strategic direction aims to build a resilient, sustainable, inclusive, and people-centered region by 2045, aligned with SDGs 1, 3, and 4. The vision includes ending poverty, ensuring shared prosperity, promoting inclusive economic growth, and strengthening universal health coverage and regional health security. For education, ASEAN seeks to advance inclusive and quality learning systems that support lifelong learning, digital readiness, and future-ready skills. She proposed guiding questions for the discussion, focusing on national models for poverty reduction, universal health care, and education reform. She emphasized the need to strengthen mechanisms for knowledge exchange, peer learning, and the transfer of successful innovations across ASEAN. Ms. Wahid also highlighted the need for stronger governance, supportive policy frameworks, adequate financing, decentralization, and expanded social protection systems. She stressed the importance of regional cooperation and investment in human capital, including mobilizing financing models for universal health coverage, social protection expansion, and equitable education. She presented Indonesia's progress and challenges in implementing Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ESCR). Indonesia has introduced a comprehensive social protection system that includes programs supporting school attendance, maternal and child health, and food assistance. She emphasized the achievements of Indonesia's universal health coverage program, JKN, which now covers approximately 246

million people, significantly reducing financial barriers to health services and improving maternal and child health outcomes. However, challenges remain, particularly regarding uneven education quality across regions and the impacts of climate change on health and education systems. She concluded by reaffirming that advancing ESCR and implementing the SDGs are central to effective poverty eradication. Indonesia's commitments in national planning, social protection, and local governance aim to ensure that development truly leaves no one behind.

- 15. Prof. Toulany Thavisay, Vice Chief of the Business Management Unit, Department of Business Management, National University of Laos,** introduced the topic of sustainable education and business. He outlined the session's focus on course development and its alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), emphasizing the importance of real-world practice and policy implementation at the micro level. He highlighted the impacts of climate change and natural disasters on ASEAN countries and the need to strengthen sustainability in both education and business operations. The environmental and economic challenges faced by ASEAN, including climate change, increasing waste, and resource depletion. He emphasized the need for sustainability-focused education and business practices to address these issues. Prof. Toulany also noted the economic reliance on small enterprises and tourism in local communities, stressing their vulnerability to unexpected events such as COVID-19 and the importance of building resilience and inclusive development. Regarding education and skills development, he highlighted inequalities in access to decent work and the challenges small businesses face in adopting sustainable practices. He stressed the need to modernize curricula to include sustainability, the circular economy, and responsible business operations. He underscored the critical role of higher education in shaping future leaders and influencing sustainable business behavior. He then introduced the "Tourism Zero" project, aimed at promoting sustainable tourism practices through collaboration between education institutions and industry. The project involves 10 universities from Laos, Thailand, China, Greece, and Spain, and focuses on equipping students and professionals with skills in tourism waste management. It includes four curriculum courses on responsible consumption, waste management, environmental impact assessment, and blended learning. The project aims to train 480 students, 130 interns, and 9,170 employees in sustainable tourism practices. He explained that the project, running from 2024 to 2027, aligns with several SDGs, including SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), and SDG 1 (No Poverty). He emphasized the

project's contribution to inclusive and sustainable economic growth and the promotion of responsible entrepreneurship. He concluded by highlighting the importance of integrating sustainability into higher education curricula and preparing students for both green and digital transitions, noting that the project will create long-term value for people, communities, and the planet.

16. **Mr. Viboon Sithimolada, Board Director of LNCCI, Vice President of Young Entrepreneurs Association of Laos, Managing Director of SSI**, shared the importance of private sector involvement in promoting human rights and sustainable growth. He stated the challenges faced by micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in Laos, including access to markets, credit, and finance. He highlighted the role of the Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LNCCI) in supporting MSMEs and promoting responsible business conduct, including Youth Entrepreneurship and Workplace Safety. He talked about the importance of youth entrepreneurship in Laos and the role of LNCCI in supporting young entrepreneurs. He mentioned the creation of SME service centers in provinces to help businesses reopen and survive during crises like COVID-19.

SESSION 5: SHARING A FUTURE PLAN AND ITS KEY CHALLENGES TO ACHIEVE THE UN 2023 AGENDA FOR SDGs AMONG ASEAN MEMBER STATES

- **This session was moderated by** Mr. Chenda Sreang, Member of the Cambodian Human Rights Committee of Cambodia

17. **Mr. Chermpun Chipibhop, Justice Officer, Department of Rights and Liberties Protection, Ministry of Justice of Thailand**, shared the country's future plans and challenges related to SDG implementation. His presentation covered three main areas: national plans, upcoming priorities, and key challenges. Firstly, National Plans Aligned with SDGs of Thailand integrates UN SDGs into various national frameworks, including: 13th National Economic and Social Development Plan (2023–2027) focusing on good governance, sustainability, demographic changes, climate resilience, and digital transformation. 5th National Human Rights Plan (2023–2027) promoting rights related to governance, justice, health, education, and protection of vulnerable groups. 2nd National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights (2023–2027) addressed labor rights, environmental rights, promotion and protection human rights, and responsible cross-border investment. All plans are interconnected and support SDG implementation across government sectors. There are several highlighted-ongoing and upcoming initiatives that support SDG acceleration: SDG Localization Project: Building capacity and raising awareness at provincial and community

levels, with funding support for local initiatives. “Half-Half” Co-Payment Scheme: A digital payment program where the government covers 50% of daily expenses up to 200 baht per person per day to support citizens and stimulate MSMEs. Debt Mediation Fairs: Assisting debtors and creditors in renegotiating repayment plans to reduce financial burdens. National Savings Promotion (“Retirement Lottery”): Allowing informal workers to receive their non-winning lottery contributions back upon turning 60. Responsible Business and Human Rights Promotion: Advancing ESG principles, responsible business conduct, mandatory human rights due diligence, and anti-corruption measures. Anti-Discrimination Bill: A proposed law addressing discrimination based on race, nationality, gender, disability, religion, politics, and other grounds. Challenges Identified Thailand continues to face several obstacles: Political Instability: Frequent changes in government disrupt policy continuity, Policy–Implementation Gap: National policies are strong, but local execution often lacks coordination or capacity, Unpredictable Climate Disasters: Floods and extreme weather events strain response systems. Financial Constraints: Some SDG projects lack government budget support. Finally, Weak Data Systems: Limited data collection and monitoring hinder evidence-based policymaking. He concluded that future planning must align with international commitments, improve coordination across government levels, and address implementation barriers. Collaborative action, stronger governance, and effective resource mobilization are essential for Thailand and the ASEAN region to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

CLOSING SESSION

18. In his closing remarks, **H.E. Ambassador Yong Chanthalangsy** concluded the Workshop by expressing sincere gratitude to all participants for their active engagement, insightful contributions, and dedication. There was an exchange of knowledge, experiences, and best practices in strengthening the implementation of poverty eradication and the protection of economic, social, and cultural rights in Asia, in line with international human rights standards and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. All experts have shared valuable insights on how to advance human rights and improve the well-being of those living in poverty, particularly through policies that reduce development gaps and promote social equity. These discussions guided the efforts in fostering sustainable, inclusive, and resilient communities across the region. He also acknowledged the contributions of the mission representatives, local authorities, national institutions, and all supporting staff who have made this workshop successful. The chairperson officially closed the Workshop by wishing all participants good health, happiness, continued success and safe

journeys back home for all participants and encouraging them to carry forward the knowledge, commitment, and inspiration gained from the AICHR Workshop into their work.