

**Keynote Speech by Mr. Ekkamol Phaetthayanan, Chair of
International Relation and Public Policy Development,
Disabilities Thailand (DTH)**

**Side Event “Upholding the Rights of marginalized groups
of persons with disabilities including women with
disabilities, underrepresented groups, and intersectional
identities”**

11 June 2026, 10.00 – 11.15 hrs. at CR-11

Distinguished Chair,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of **Disability Thailand, or DTH**.

Established in **1983**, DTH has long served as a national-level organization advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities in Thailand. DTH serves as an umbrella organization representing organizations of persons with disabilities across the country. We have worked closely with government agencies, parliamentarians, civil society, and international partners to advance disability-inclusive laws and policies.

Today, I would like to focus on **the role of civil society and OPDs in monitoring CRPD implementation** and in shaping good practices and policy approaches to promote and protect the rights of **marginalized groups of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, underrepresented groups, and persons with intersectional identities**.

First, DTH and the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEP) are working together to support a **new draft amendment to the disability law**. A key proposal is to strengthen the mechanism for eliminating unfair discrimination against persons with disabilities by upgrading it into a stronger committee with clearer procedures, more resources, expert support, and improved remedies, including mediation, temporary protection, compensation, and enforcement. This matters because rights must be backed by **accessible remedies**, especially for persons facing **multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination**. We also believe the draft should go further by making **intersectional discrimination** more explicit and by strengthening the promotion and protection of **women with disabilities**, in line with **CRPD Article 6**.

Second, Thailand also has a specific **Women with Disabilities Development Plan**, which focuses on equal access to rights, health and sexual and reproductive rights, freedom from

violence and exploitation, and the strengthening of women-led disability organizations. This is an important example of disability policy responding to gender and lived realities in an integrated way.

Third, Thai law already recognizes that persons with disabilities who **have no civil registration status** may still receive suitable assistance from the State under the principle of **human dignity**. This is especially important for stateless persons, migrants, and others excluded from formal systems.

Fourth, Thailand has introduced a new pathway on **social disability assessment**. For too long, access to disability ID cards depended mainly on medical assessment. This new pathway helps persons whose real barriers may have been excluded by narrow medical thresholds, by taking into account **activities, participation, and environmental barriers**.

Excellencies, colleagues,

Civil society and OPDs do not stand outside implementation. We help transform commitments into responsive law, accountable policy, and community-based practice.

Finally, inclusion is not charity, and participation is not optional.

Let us continue working together to ensure that **no one is invisible, no voice is unheard, and no one is left behind.**

Thank you very much.

.....