The supervision and implementation of the NAP

The NAP has a four-year term (2019–2022). The Sub-committee on Driving Forward the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights, which consists of representatives from relevant agencies, is tasked to implement and regularly monitor the progress of the NAP to ensure effective and tangible results.

The work of agencies relevant to the NAP

- Producing a short-term (up to two years, quickly achievable) and long-term (up to four years, requiring time and consistency) plan on the implementation of the NAP.
- Carrying out the activities as planned.

Monitoring of the NAP

The Rights and Liberties Protection Department will monitor the implementation of the NAP at the end of the budget year. For this, the agencies responsible for the execution of the NAP must report their performance to the Rights and Liberties Protection Department within December of each year. Then, the Rights and Liberties Protection Department will compile and submit all reports to the Sub-committee on Driving Forward the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights, who will produce an annual performance report and submit it to the Committee on Driving Forward Human Rights Work in Thailand.

Evaluation of the NAP

The Rights and Liberties Protection Department will recruit an expert consultant for the evaluation of the NAP, who will carry out the evaluation in two periods: the first two years (2019–2020) and the last two years (2021–2022).
The United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (the UNGPs)

The world’s most authoritative, normative framework to prevent and address human rights abuses in business operations. The UNGPs are made up of 31 principles organized under three pillars.

What is the NAP?

An action plan that has been developed by all relevant stakeholders in a participatory process with aims to protect people and communities against human rights abuses as a result of business conduct, prevent, mitigate and address problems or adverse impacts from business conduct, and promote responsible business practices that respect human rights throughout the supply chain to create sustainable economic growth.

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The Rights and Liberties Protection Department, Ministry of Justice, is the key agency responsible for drafting and implementing the NAP in Thailand. The Cabinet approved and announced the NAP on 29 October 2019. The 1st NAP (2019–2022) aims at addressing four key priority areas of human rights violations that are a result of business conduct.

Key activities under the NAP

1 The action plan on labour includes amending laws and policies to promote and protect labour rights, developing a worker-management system, ensuring fair recruitment, sharing knowledge with workers, eliminating discrimination in employment and the workplace, paying a fair wage, creating decent working conditions, providing access to health services, taking care of workers’ children, addressing human trafficking and forced labour issues, protecting workers in the supply chain, safeguarding workers from being replaced by technology, protecting Thai workers abroad and inspecting businesses.

2 The action plan on community, land, natural resources and the environment includes amending related laws, policies and measures, hearing public opinions and allowing public participation, conducting Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and Environmental Health Impact Assessments (EHIAs), regulating Special Economic Zones (SEZs), managing natural resources and the environment, empowering communities, looking after minority and ethnic groups and inspecting businesses.

3 The action plan on human rights defenders includes considering being a party to an international treaty regarding the protection of human rights defenders, cooperating with human rights mechanisms, amending related laws and policies to protect and safeguard human rights defenders, applying concrete measures to protect human rights defenders and creating understanding and knowledge on the work of human rights defenders.

4 The action plan on cross-border investment and multinational enterprises includes amending related laws and policies, raising human rights awareness among investors, promoting responsible investment, protecting against human rights abuses in foreign countries, regulating the work of state enterprises, inspecting the business sector and cooperating with the regional and international effort to advance issues of business and human rights.

Thailand is the first country in Asia to have announced a NAP.