NAP core content

The NAP was drafted to prevent and address human rights abuses in business operations in four key priority areas:

1. Labour
2. Community, land, natural resources, and the environment
3. Human rights defenders
4. Cross-border investment and multinational enterprises

In order to effectively solve the human rights issues in the four key priority areas, the NAP determines action plans in each area which consist of:

1. Analysis of the situation
2. Challenges
3. Action plans clearly indicate activities, responsible agencies, time frames, indicators and linkages with national strategies and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The NAP is planned for a four-year term. Its implementation is closely supervised by the Committee on Driving Forward Human Rights Work in Thailand through the Sub-committee on Driving Forward the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights, which is tasked to monitor the activities and provide regular feedback to ensure effective implementation based on an integrated approach.

Supervision, monitoring and evaluation

The NAP is grounded in the UNGPs which outlines guidance to government and business under three pillars.

Protect – The state has the duty to protect its citizens from human rights violations.
Respect – The private sector has the duty to conduct business responsibly and respect human rights.
Remedy – The state and private sector have the duty to remedy the impacts on human rights caused by business conduct.
What is the NAP?

The National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights, or 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.

The background of the NAP

16 June 2011
The United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC) issued resolution 17/14 recognizing the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (the UNGPs).

December 2014
The UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights recommended states to develop a NAP based on the UNGPs under the concept of “no one size fits all”, each NAP must be contextualized and responsive to the needs of the specific country.

11 May 2016
The Thai government acted on the recommendation by Sweden and gave a voluntary pledge during the 2nd Universal Periodic Review (UPR) cycle in Geneva, Switzerland, confirming that it would enact a NAP to advance the implementation of the UNGPs in Thailand. Later, the Cabinet issued a resolution appointing the Rights and Liberties Protection Department, Ministry of Justice as the key agency responsible for the drafting of the NAP.

29 October 2019
The Cabinet approved the 1st National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights (2019–2022), which made Thailand the first country in Asia to have a NAP in place.

November 2016 – September 2019
The Rights and Liberties Protection Department drafted the NAP ensuring the participation of all relevant stakeholders in the process.

The NAP drafting process

The drafting process of the NAP in Thailand was in line with the Guidance on National Action Plans on Business and Human Rights, which was developed by the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights.

The drafting process of the NAP in Thailand was under the supervision of the national committee tasked with steering the direction, drafting, and monitoring and evaluation of the NAP; the drafting process was divided into three phases:

PHASE 1
Regional workshops to collect data, comments and suggestions related to the situation of business and human rights in Thailand.

PHASE 2
Drafting of the NAP and the first set of regional public hearing forums and other feedback channels to receive comments and recommendations on the draft.

PHASE 3
The second set of cluster meetings to receive and review feedback and recommendations on the draft of the NAP. Finalizing the draft to make it comprehensive, complete and suitable for the country’s needs.

The Rights and Liberties Protection Department submitting the draft to the Cabinet for approval, to be officially titled the 1st National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights (2019–2022)