

TRADE POLICY REVIEW OF THAILAND

1 AND 3 DECEMBER 2025

*Concluding Remarks by the Chairperson,
Ambassador H.E. Kairat Torebayev
(Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan)*

1. This Review has once again highlighted the value of transparency and cooperation, which are at the core of the Trade Policy Review Mechanism and the Multilateral Trading System. Thailand's Ninth Trade Policy Review has facilitated constructive dialogue among Members, and deepened our understanding of Thailand's trade and investment policies since its last Review in 2020.

2. I would like to thank H.E. Ms Kirida Bhaopichitr, Vice Minister for Commerce, and H.E. Ambassador Pimchanok Pitfield, Permanent Representative of Thailand to the WTO, and the rest of the delegation of Thailand for their active engagement throughout this review process. I would also like to thank H.E. Ambassador Mr Petter Ølberg of Norway, for his valuable contribution as a discussant.

3. This Review featured a high level of engagement, reflecting the strong interest that Members attach to Thailand's trade and investment policies. Thailand received 550 advance written questions from 31 Members, and 51 delegations took the floor during the two-day meetings. These exchanges captured key features of Thailand's economy and trade policies, including its ambition, grit and resilience, its spirit of cooperation and commitment to the Multilateral Trading System, and the challenges it faces going forward.

4. Throughout these two days, Thailand was praised by Members for its ongoing recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and for its determined efforts to become a high-income economy by 2037. They highlighted its 20-year development strategy to build a sustainable and innovation-driven economy, noting the critical role of trade for its economy, with a trade-to-GDP-ratio of over 130% in 2024. Members also acknowledged Thailand's efforts to strengthen its position in advanced industries and global value chains in sectors such as electric vehicles, and digital products. In working towards these objectives, Members welcomed Thailand's reform efforts in trade facilitation, including the digitalization of customs procedures, and the enhancement of its national single window, as well as its efforts to further diversify markets through trade agreements. Members also noted its environmental and digital-related initiatives, support to SMEs, and promotion of foreign investment.

5. Members recognized Thailand's role as an important and strategic partner both within Asia and globally. They underscored Thailand's long-standing contribution as an engine of regional integration and noted its commitment to cooperation not only at the regional level but also bilaterally and multilaterally.

6. In this regard, Members emphasized Thailand's strong support to the Multilateral Trading System and widely commended it for its very constructive and active role in the work of the WTO. Such engagement was demonstrated by its contribution and leadership in various areas, notably regarding WTO reform, the TRIPS Council and its participation in the Joint Initiative on Services Domestic Regulation, on Investment Facilitation for Development, and more recently on the Trade and Environmental Sustainability Structured Discussions. Members also commended the full implementation of its Trade Facilitation Agreement commitments, while encouraging Thailand to ratify the Fisheries Subsidies Agreement and to submit pending notifications, particularly in the areas of agriculture and subsidies. Several Members also invited Thailand to join the Multi-Party Interim Arbitration Arrangement, and the E-commerce Agreement.

7. Members also highlighted several areas of reform, that could help Thailand realize its economic potential and unlock stronger, and more inclusive growth. These included simplifying its tariff regime, easing investment restrictions, strengthening competition policies, addressing the role of SOEs in the economy, and reducing non-tariff measures, particularly in SPS. In this context,

Members welcomed Thailand's accession process to the OECD as a clear signal of its commitment to pursuing these reforms.

8. To conclude, I encourage Thailand's delegation to consider the constructive comments that it received during the Review. Regarding advance written questions, Members look forward to receiving outstanding answers within the customary one month, at which time this Review will be concluded.

9. Let me thank again the delegation of Thailand, the discussant and all delegations that have contributed. My thanks also go to the Secretariat for their hard work throughout this exercise.
