



Executive Summary

National Security Policy and Plan B.E. 2566 – 2570 (2023 - 2027)

The Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand B.E. 2560 (2017) prescribes that the State shall protect and uphold the institution of kingship, independence, sovereignty, integrity of its jurisdiction and the areas over which Thailand has sovereignty rights, honour and interest of the Nation, security of State and public order. For these purposes, the State shall provide effective military, diplomatic, and intelligence services. Armed forces shall also be deployed for the purpose of developing the country. In addition, the Constitution stipulates that the State should set out a national strategy as a goal for sustainable development of the country under the principle of good governance, in the form of a 20-year (2018-2037) level-1 plan. As such, the National Strategies Formulation Act, B.E. 2560 (2017) determines principles to ensure the formulation of consistent and integrated plans in a congruous force to materialise the vision that “Thailand becomes a developed country with security, prosperity and sustainability in accordance with the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy”.

The formulation of the National Security Policy and Plan (NSPP) is in accordance with the National Security Council Act B.E. 2559 (2016). Being developed as a medium-term, 5-year, level-2 plan, the NSPP supports the National Strategy on Security. It provides frameworks and directions for the prevention, warning, mitigation, or suppression of security threats to safeguard national security. Furthermore, the NSPP coherently addresses domestic and foreign policies as well as military, economic and other national security policies to ensure close collaboration between state agencies and relevant security networks in protecting national security.

This National Security Policy and Plan is connected to and consistent with other relevant level-2 plans: the Master Plan under the National Strategy (on Security and Foreign Affairs) and the National Economic and Social Development Plan No. 13. Together these plans represent a significant mechanism to steer frameworks for the country under each aspect of the National Strategy into practice. In other words, they provide state agencies with a framework for the formulation and implementation of national level-3 plans, where the determined goals and indicators can be applied to the plans, projects, activities, and other undertakings and put into practice in a clearer and more effective manner.

The formulation of the National Security Policy (since the first official publication for the years 1998 - 2001) has continually been improved and adapted to the various situations, conditions, and both domestic and international changes. Essentially, the National Security Policy and Plan (2023 - 2027) focuses on laying the foundation for national security, starting from the smallest social units which are the institutions of family and education. So the NSPP encourages all stakeholders, specifically collaborate across the sectors. The Policy and Plan implementation also emphasizes the sub-district target areas to cultivate the area-based development approach for national security reinforcement and advance the sub-district

“security, prosperity, and sustainability” plan, Furthermore, the NSPP aims to combat exclusively the key security threats and risk tendencies over the period of the next 5 years. The criteria for the selected and prioritized issues include high-risk and high-impact in relation to both domestic and international contexts and environments as well as evaluation of the country’s capacity to cultivate its national power. Moreover, the country’s ability assessment for national power enhancement and national risk management are also recognized to be able to effectively cope with threats of all forms. Fostering security, safety and peace, the principle of Comprehensive Security should be more bolstered. This involves in the interlinkage of political, economic, social, military, scientific, technological, and natural resource and environmental aspects. To achieve concrete accomplishments and fill the gaps in the strategic guideline from the Master Plan under the National Strategy on Security, the NSPP highlights and focuses further on specific goals, indicators, and strategies. Finally, this Policy and Plan links with the National Annual Budget Allocation Strategy to facilitate the deliberation of budget allocation and to regulate national security plans or projects.

Vision

“A Secure Nation, Contented People, Free from All Types of Security Threat, Enhancing Capacity and Management for Comprehensive Security, and Maintaining National Interests.”

Objectives

- To be the framework and direction for the prevention, warning, mitigation or suppression of security threats to safeguard national security;
- To correspond the National Strategy on Security into tangible practice and achieve the determined targets;
- To provide state agencies with a framework and direction for the formulation and steering of level-3 plans (integrated action plan, state-agency’s action plan, and area-based development plan) regarding national security in a consistent and compatible manner.

Goal, Indicators, and Overall Target Value

● Goal

Enhancement in Thailand’s security and stability, peaceful livelihood of the people, capacity and management in pursuit of comprehensive security and national interests.

● Indicators and Overall Target Value

The achievement of target value as determined for each sub-indicator under the 17 security policies and plans under the National Security Policy and Plan (2023 - 2027);

In addition, the framework takes into account the following: the royal initiatives, royal working principles, and the Sufficient Economy Philosophy of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej The Great, together with the royal aspirations of His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajiraklaochoyuhua to “continue, preserve, and build upon the royal legacy and shall reign with righteousness for the benefit and happiness of the people forever”, as well as the approach of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the principle of integration

to encourage stakeholder cooperation from all sectors, risk management, the goal of fostering resilience “to rise up quickly when one falls”, and the promotion of the concept of comprehensive security.

Overview of the Security Environment

Over the next five years, Thailand remains exposed to many interconnected risks, which may affect its security on various levels. Complex and interlinked to the political, economic, social, cultural, military, scientific, technological, and natural resources and environmental aspects of the country, these security threats and issues in their contexts and security tendencies combines the traditional and non-traditional forms of threats, adjusted to be named as “hybrid threats”. This warrants examination both in terms of an outlook on external factors affecting Thailand and the situation within which affects beyond its border. These can be divided into three scales: 1) **Global Scale**: the politics of Global powers and formations of international blocs remain the main factors affecting the context of global security. The possibility of future arms race and proliferation, as well as technological and innovative advancement mean that Thailand needs to prepare for potential security crisis in order to reduce national security risk and maintain the quality of life of its people; ; 2) **Regional Scale**: Southeast Asia is considered an important strategic point, being a critical transportation path and source of energy. This leads to the tendency of strategic competition and expansion of influence between global powers and factions, especially as seen in the case of the dispute in the South China Sea and the Mekong River Sub-Region; and 3) **National Scale**: the consolidation of national key institutions, domestic situations such as the country’s political issues, unrest in the southern border provinces, illegal immigration and irregular migration, narcotic drugs, corruption, natural disasters, natural resource depletion and environmental degradation, economic security, as well as the issues on food and energy security are prominent factors in the consideration of Thailand’s security scenarios.

The National Security Policy and Plan (2023 - 2027) consists of 17 security policies and plans, which can be divided into two parts, as follows:

Part 1 Security Issues: High-risk and high-impact threats to national security and interest, with 13 security policies and plans, as follows:

Security Policy and Plan No. 1 - The Consolidation of the Key National Institutions: Focusing on achieving the peaceful coexistence between all Thais on the basis of respect for diversity and human rights, and protecting and upholding the institutions of the Nation, Religion, and the Monarchy. Such protection and promotion of the Institution of the Monarchy shall be carried out through promoting learning, producing or developing courses, and distributing knowledge about the institution. Another priority is the encouragement of peaceful coexistence between all the people in the nation and respect for diversity, human rights, and recognition of the importance of all religions, beliefs, and the irreligious. (Internal Security Operations Command as a focal point)

Security Policy and Plan No. 2 - The Protection of the Sovereignty and National Interests and the Enhancement of Its Defence Capabilities: Focusing on protecting, mitigating, and resolving issues affecting Thailand’s sovereignty and interest, whether on land,

at sea, or in the air. In addition, the military and relevant security agencies have capacity and strategic ability required for future national defence, including the strategic military forces planning as well as the modernization of the armed forces and security agencies, especially preparation and enhancement of their readiness to support cyber and space operations. (Ministry of Defence as a focal point)

Security Policy and Plan No. 3 - The Maintenance of Border Security and National Interests: Focusing on ensuring development, security, safety and potential capabilities to protect against and resolve all forms of threats, and foster an appropriate environment for balanced economic, social, and human security development in the border areas. The area shall become a space for cooperation and fostering of good relations with neighboring countries, whether regarding cooperation in the prevention of threats and security issues, resolution of ongoing issues, or the collective pursuit of sustainable economic growth. This is done through developing the environment in the border areas into a safe space with capabilities to prevent and resolve threats, improving and upgrading border checkpoints to ensure effectiveness in threat prevention, and linking economies, trades, and cross-border commute. The area shall also be developed in a way that border conflicts between Thailand and its neighboring countries can be resolved to ensure a balance between national interest and international relations. (Ministry of Interior as a focal point)

Security Policy and Plan No. 4 - The Maintenance of Maritime Security and National Interests: Focusing on fostering constant comprehensive maritime security so that key maritime threats can be prevented and resolved, as well as collaboration between sectors in a way that takes into account a balanced and sustainable maintenance of maritime security and the national maritime interest. It shall also place emphasis on effective marine knowledge management and the capability improvement for maritime security operations, and enhancement of collaboration with neighboring countries, ASEAN countries, and countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Additionally, it shall emphasize the balanced, sustainable, and environmentally friendly utilization of the ocean under the notion of the Blue Economy, particularly regarding tourism, fishing, merchant marine, extraction and exploration of energy reserves under the sea, marine knowledge management, and the creation of awareness about the importance of the ocean. (Thai Maritime Enforcement Command Center as a focal point)

Security Policy and Plan No. 5 - The Prevention and Resolution of the Issues of the Southern Border Provinces: Focusing on minimizing violent incidents and loss, developing the local economy in a way that corresponds to the way of life and the area's potentials. This includes strengthening communities in the Southern Border Provinces by ensuring better safety and eliminating conditions for violent incidents through the capacity building to safeguard the people's lives and properties, strengthening communities and villages. On top of developing and improving the key infrastructure, quality of education, and government administration, it shall push forward this agenda through the peace dialogue process for the Southern Border Provinces in accordance with the intent of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand, on the basis of sincerity, consent, and dignity, to resolve the conflict by peaceful means. (Office of the National Security Council as a focal point)

Security Policy and Plan No. 6 - The Management of Illegal Immigration and Irregular Migration: Focusing on managing the system for people with issues regarding personal status and rights, migrant workers, and vulnerable persons who can affect security and international relations, irregular migrants, and people under protection or those currently undergoing screening designation and are unable to return to their domicile countries in a way that balances security, international relations, and the principle of human rights. The undertakings for this item include expediting the creation of a database for the statistics of illegal migrants, particularly those with issues regarding personal status and rights, enforcing the relevant laws to investigate and arrest illegal migrant workers, business operators, as well as people supplying the illegal migrant workers, and integrating collaboration between the government sector and relevant private sectors, and with the countries of origin to push and introduce measures to resolve the issue of the migrant workers' dependents. (Internal Security Operations Command as a focal point)

Security Policy and Plan No. 7 - The Prevention and Resolution of Human Trafficking: Focusing on augmenting Thailand's status and competency in the prevention and resolution of the human trafficking issue in a way that is effective and tangible in order to be internationally recognized by expediting human trafficking case management through mobilizing and collaboration among relevant agencies on anti-human trafficking of Thai and migrant labor. Furthermore, multidisciplinary team (MDT), authorities, and practitioners shall be cultivated their knowledge, understanding, skills, and capacities on law enforcement concerning prosecution of human trafficking cases. (Ministry of Social Development and Human Security as a focal point)

Security Policy and Plan No. 8 - Drug Control: Focusing on prevention of population in all target groups from involving with drugs, interdiction and suppression of drug trafficking syndicates, as well as treatment and rehabilitation for drug addicts to be able to reintegrate into society. This shall be undertaken by strengthening people at the level of individual, family, and community by fostering individual-level immunity through cultivating appropriate attitude and awareness against both drug use and trade, promoting and enhancing drug control cooperation on prevention, suppression, treatment and rehabilitation with international organizations, interdicting drug smuggling and suppressing drug traffickers, domestic drug trafficking syndicates and transnational crimes, developing technology and database for monitoring the usage of on-line platforms for illicit drug business; and also focus on providing opportunities and alternatives for drug users after completing treatment to their life in society as normal with dignity on the basis of human rights, to develop their capacity and not to be stigmatized or discriminated. (Ministry of Justice, by Office of the Narcotics Control Board as a focal point)

Security Policy and Plan No. 9 - Disaster Prevention and Mitigation: Focusing on improving disaster risk management for natural, man-made, and compound hazards to allow for prompt and sustainable resolution, through the cultivation of knowledge and understanding, awareness, and recognition of disaster risk management amongst every sector in order to reduce disaster risks effectively. It shall also promote international partnerships in disaster risk management and coordinate humanitarian assistance by ensuring that Thailand's disaster management mechanism meets international standards. This shall be undertaken by improving

Thailand's integrated emergency management to meet the standards of emergency operations, determining a cooperation guideline for emergency operation centers, and strengthening the mechanism management for disaster mitigation and victim assistance to ensure prompt, coverage, and fairness in the operations. (Ministry of Interior, by Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation as a focal point)

Security Policy and Plan No. 10 - The Prevention and Resolution of Cybersecurity Issues: Focusing on ensuring that the effectiveness of Thailand's defense against cyberattacks is improved, enhancing its cybersecurity standard, and reducing cybercrime. This shall be carried out by way of improving the cybersecurity system and ensuring that it meets the international standard so that it can effectively resolve cybersecurity incidents which may affect the critical information infrastructure, as well as improving the mechanisms, measures, and guidelines for the prevention, suppression, and investigation of cybercrime to ensure maximum effectiveness. (Office of the National Cyber Security Committee as a focal point)

Security Policy and Plan No. 11 - The Prevention and Countering Terrorism: Focusing on ensuring that Thailand has immunity against the threat of terrorism and capacity to respond to crises caused by terrorism, recover from the incidents, and return to normalcy. This shall be done through the domestic and international exchange of intelligence, information, and intelligence regarding terrorism, the protection of critical infrastructure and vulnerability areas, the creation of a database system which integrates counter-terrorism data, and the fostering of awareness and participation from the private sector and the people in relation to the concept of counter-terrorism. In addition, the mechanism for real-time response to the incidents and the systems for warning, communications, and public relations in relation to the crises caused by terrorism shall also be further developed to raise awareness and foster understanding and participation by the communities, localities, religious institutions, and educational institutions. (Office of the National Security Council as a focal point)

Security Policy and Plan No. 12 - The Promotion of Balanced External Relations: Focusing on ensuring that Thailand can maintain balanced relations with all countries, especially with major powers in order to strengthen its national security, exercise a leading role in the ASEAN Political-Security Community, promote its national interests in the Mekong Sub-Region, and maintain and strengthen cordial relations with neighboring countries based on national interest as its priority. The Plan is also aimed at preserving Thailand's national interest by continuing regular engagement with targeted partners and other strategic countries, as well as reviewing Thailand's position towards global powers and international and regional groupings with strategic importance. As a result, Thailand can anticipate changes and adjust its course in maintaining balanced engagement in a timely manner. In order to secure both the national interest and safeguard collective regional interest, Thailand's role in the ASEAN Political-Security Community shall also be promoted, by fostering collaboration in the prevention and resolution of regional non-traditional security threats, such as the narcotic drugs, the suppression of illegal goods, transboundary haze pollution, and cyber threats. (Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a focal point)

Security Policy and Plan No. 13 - The Management of Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Infectious Diseases: Focusing on preparing and enhancing the capacity for the

management of public health emergencies and emerging infectious diseases at both regional and local levels, as well as developing innovations and managing medical resources to ensure readiness when a crisis arises. This shall be undertaken by enhancing Thailand's capabilities and following the Action Plan of Emerging Infectious Diseases for Preparedness, Prevention and Resolution, as well as the incident action plans and the public health emergency management, through the national exercises for integrated collaboration arrangement. In addition, the medicine security should be promoted by manufacture medicines and medical equipment for the entire supply chain of medical and public health emergencies. (Ministry of Public Health as a focal point)

Part 2 Security Capabilities: The enhancement of Thailand's security capabilities in its capacity to effectively prevent and resolve security issues, with 4 security policies and plans, as follows:

Security Policy and Plan No. 14 - The Enhancement of National Preparedness and National Crisis Management: Focusing on enhancing the national preparedness to prevent and respond to threats and integrate the country's resources for allocation in a case of a national crisis. It must be accomplished by reviewing and developing administrative mechanisms, whether on the policy, directorate and operational levels, to ensure the ability to collaborate missions when Thailand faces the national crises. This shall also promote both bilateral and multilateral international cooperations to strengthen research and development cooperation. Furthermore, the administrative mechanisms together with the warning and command system should be effectively developed, along with the coordination between agencies and operations. (Office of the National Security Council as a focal point)

Security Policy and Plan No. 15 - The Development of the National Intelligence System: Focusing on developing the national intelligence systems to ensure that strategic national security situations are monitored, evaluated, responded to, and informed on in the long term, as well as expanding the monitoring network to support the intelligence operations and the intelligence system to combat key threats. This shall be carried out by enhancing the capacity for intelligence gathering and evaluation, developing and expanding the intelligence network, and enhancing the knowledge of the personnel in the evaluation of intelligence in the long term. (Office of the National Intelligence Agency as a focal point)

Security Policy and Plan No. 16 - The Integration of Security Information: Focusing on producing and linking data accounts for digital big data on security so that it can be applied to inform policy decisions on the prevention and resolution of threats to national security. This shall be undertaken by integrating information relating to security for policy decisions and by determining the agenda regarding security issues and security capabilities under the National Security Policy and Plan (2023 - 2027) as the issues for big data analysis, as well as by improving the administrative mechanism for the integration of security information through the plans or guidelines. There shall also be an encouragement of cooperation or an agreement to link, exchange, and share information on the security platforms according to the designated authority of each relevant agency. (Internal Security Operations Command as a focal point)

Security Policy and Plan No. 17 - The Promotion of the Area-Based Security:

Focusing on preventing and resolving security issues in target areas at the subdistrict level to ensure security, prosperity, and sustainability. This shall be accomplished by enhancing the concept of area-based development for national security reinforcement together with the Sub-district Plan for Security, Prosperity and Sustainability. In addition, the improvement of the quality of life and fostering immunity on security matters will be highlighted under the area-based approach. This policy and plan also emphasizes other security area-based issues, such as natural resources and the environment, the coexistence between humans and animals, and conflicts over energy, food, and water for the problem-solving efforts. Moreover, this will enhance the capabilities of the front line officer and the proactive security networks, both governmental and non-governmental, to ensure effective information exchange, operational coordination, and reflection from the area to the policy level. (The Internal Security Operations Command as a focal point)

Guideline for Steering, Monitoring, Review, and Evaluation

The purpose of the NSPP is to ensure collaboration between every sector under the whole-of-government approach and the whole-of-society approach for the enhancement of comprehensive security. The integration has been determined both in the structural and the mechanical aspects to relay the targets and indicators down to the level of various agencies, in order to connect and align their operations under the same policies and strategies. Agencies with clear responsibilities for synergizing implementation shall be designated. The administrative mechanisms are an important part of the steering, monitoring, and evaluation of the National Security Policy and Plan (2023 - 2027), which is deemed by the National Security Council to be the prime mechanism in the supervision and monitoring of the overall operations. Furthermore, it includes the key mechanism of the security strategy plan to achieve the goals in accordance with the “XYZ” Causal Relationship model. The mechanism can be divided into three levels, as follows:

1. Policy Level: The National Security Strategy Steering and Integration Committee to direct and steer the National Security Policy and Plan (2023 - 2027) (a level-2 plan) together with the Master Plan under the National Strategy (for Security) to achieve the strategy’s goal on security.

2. Central Administrative Level: The Steering Committee for the Master Plan under the National Strategy on Security and the National Security Policy and Plan to direct, coordinate, and oversee the targets and indicators to ensure their relevance to the National Security Policy and Plan (2023 - 2027). This undertaking shall be carried out together with the undertaking of steering the Master Plan under the National Strategy (for Security) and be reported to the National Security Strategy Steering and Integration Committee and the National Security Council, respectively. The committee consists of five sub-committees:

2.1 The Steering Committee for the Sub-Plans on Internal National Security (Chaired by the Secretariat of the Internal Security Operations Command);

2.2 The Steering Committee for the Sub-Plans on the Prevention and Resolution of Issues Affecting Security (Chaired by the Secretariat of the Internal Security Operations Command);

2.3 The Steering Committee for the Sub-Plans on the Improvement of the Country's Capabilities to Ensure Readiness against Threats Affecting National Security (Chaired by the Permanent Secretary for Defence);

2.4 The Steering Committee for the Sub-Plans on the Integration of Collaboration on Security with ASEAN Countries and the International Community, Including Governmental and Non-Governmental Agencies (Chaired by the Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs);

2.5 The Steering Committee for the Sub-Plans on the Development of the Administrative Mechanism for Comprehensive Security (Chaired by the Secretary of the National Security Council).

3. Local Level: Prioritizing the steering efforts in relation to the administrative mechanisms of the development plans on the local level in accordance with the laws on the integrated area-based management, with the Ministry of Interior, the Provincial Integrated Administrative Committees, and the Provincial Security Plan Preparation Sub-Committees as the agencies/mechanisms responsible.

The hosted agencies which have been designated to integrate and steer the policies and plans shall monitor and evaluate the initial results every six months and on an annual basis as the relevant agencies have implemented their respective 17 security policies and plans. There shall also be administrative mechanisms on the policy, central administrative, and local levels to expedite, review, and evaluate the results, in order to report to the National Security Council for the overall supervision and monitoring, or for consideration of whether to review, modify, and improve an operational process to be more appropriate and effective.

The success factor depends on whether the government prioritizes and supports the operations, whether the relevant agencies at all levels acknowledge and understand the undertakings, the transfer of targets and indicators into the level-3 plans, whether the relevant agencies are prepared in terms of resources and are able to modify and improve their administration under the mission for which they are responsible, according to the guidelines prescribed, as well as depending on the consideration of budget allocated to government agencies, the integration between the operation of every sector, and the effective implementation of the policies and plans into practice.

Directorate of Security Policy and Plan, Office of the National Security Council

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