

49th session of the Human Rights Council

Panel discussion on the importance of robust public policies and services for the protection of economic, social and cultural rights in contributing to the COVID-19 pandemic recovery

Planned Parenthood Association of Thailand (PPAT), on behalf of IPPF, strongly supports the advances made in telemedicine during the pandemic.

We applaud Thailand's voluntary pledge to strengthen its health system and universal health coverage (UHC) scheme to promote the right to health for all as well as international and multilateral cooperation, which was critical for an effective COVID-19 pandemic preparedness, response and recovery.

We commend Thailand's willingness to facilitate access to telemedicine and digital health services for all including sexual and reproductive health services for the protection of economic, social and cultural rights for all, including migrant, ethnic and rural communities.

Introducing regulations to allow service providers to engage in telemedicine services as well as other regulations related to medical services, and data protection laws were essential to meeting primary health care needs, including sexual and reproductive health and rights, despite the challenges presented by the pandemic, and will continue to be critical to meet the needs of marginalized communities in the decades to come.

We urge all governments to permanently integrate the innovations made during Covid-19 on telemedicine, digital health care into their work to reach Universal Health Coverage.

Thank you.