

COUNCIL**Council****RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL ON THE OPENING OF ACCESSION
DISCUSSIONS WITH THAILAND****(Adopted by the Council at its 1481st session on 17 June 2024)****JT03546514**

THE COUNCIL,

Having regard to the Convention on the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development of 14 December 1960 (hereafter “OECD Convention”), and in particular its Articles 1, 2, 5, 12 and 16;

Having regard to the Framework for the Consideration of Prospective Members (hereafter “the Framework”) [C(2017)50/FINAL] that reconfirms the continued validity of the four criteria initially outlined in the Noboru Report [C(2004)60], namely like-mindedness, significant player, mutual benefit and global considerations;

Having regard to the Organisation’s longstanding strategic objectives to continue to strengthen its effectiveness, relevance and global impact, including through strengthened engagement with the Southeast Asia and the Indo-Pacific region and possible membership of countries of the region, as recognised in the OECD Strategic Framework for the Indo-Pacific [C/MIN(2023)19];

Having regard to the transformative and rigorous nature of the accession process that serves to uphold the high standards of the Organisation and acts as a powerful catalyst for reform in candidate countries;

Recalling that, as a like-minded community, OECD Members commit to certain values that accession candidate countries are expected to share, in particular on:

- the preservation of individual liberty;
- the values of democracy, the rule of law and the protection of human rights;
- and the value of open, trading, competitive, sustainable and transparent market economies;

Considering that accession candidate countries should not only commit to these shared values but also pursue a policy agenda that is consistent with them;

Recognising that the OECD’s 60th Anniversary Vision Statement sets out the shared values, vision and priorities of the OECD membership and that the accession process serves to confirm adherence by candidate countries to these values, vision and priorities in practice;

Recalling that OECD accession is a multi-year process encompassing a rigorous and in-depth evaluation by more than 20 substantive committees of the willingness and ability of candidate countries to implement all OECD legal instruments as well as an assessment of a candidate country’s policies and practices compared to OECD best policies and practices;

Having regard to the need for equal treatment among candidate countries while giving priority in the sequencing of committee reviews to the candidate countries with whom accession discussions were opened in 2022;

Recalling that, as a result of the technical reviews, changes to the candidate country’s legislation, policy and practices will be required to bring them into line with OECD legal instruments and best practices;

- i) RECOGNISES Thailand’s long-standing commitment to active engagement with the OECD, including as the first Southeast Asian country participating in an OECD Country Programme since 2018 and as the co-chair of the Southeast Asia Regional Programme between 2018-2022, its progress toward fulfilling the criteria set out in the Framework for the Consideration of Prospective Members, as well as Thailand’s determination to use OECD accession as a driver to both consolidate and pursue further transformative reforms;

- ii) DECIDES, based on the considerations set out above, to open accession discussions with Thailand and INVITES the Secretary-General to communicate the Council's decision to Thailand;
- iii) REQUESTS the Secretary-General to set out as a next step the terms, conditions and process for Thailand's accession to the OECD in a draft Roadmap for Accession, in line with the Accession Roadmaps adopted in 2022, for consideration and adoption by Council by consensus;
- iv) REAFFIRMS that, pursuant to Article 16 of the OECD Convention, following the completion of the in-depth technical reviews by OECD committees in line with the Accession Roadmap, a unanimous decision of the OECD Council will be required to invite Thailand to become a Member of the Organisation;
- v) UNDERLINES that Thailand will be expected to fulfil all requirements of the accession process within a reasonable time and to adopt all necessary legislative changes before the end of the process;
- vi) DECIDES to remain open to future requests for membership from all regions, with due consideration to the Organisation's capacity to manage accession processes effectively and efficiently;
- vii) DECIDES to pursue further steps on the engagement with partner countries including on possible future membership on the basis of the OECD Global Relations Strategy [C/MIN(2021)17/FINAL] and strengthened engagement with all OECD Regional Programmes and possible future regional programmes.