

Agreements, Laws, Policies and Plans in support of the Importance of Play and Availability of Appropriate and Safe Play Spaces Leading to Equitable Wellbeing Enhancement

International level

The United Nations views play as vital to the development of physical and mental health as well as a form of welfare and recreation that children are entitled to. It includes the child's right to play in the **Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 31** of which states the following:

1. States Parties recognize the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural rights and the arts.

2. States Parties shall respect and promote the right of the child to participate fully in cultural and artistic life and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activities.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF, 1989) as mentioned in Article 31 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child about the legitimate right of the child to play.

United Nations' Declaration of the Rights of the Child: Principles 2 and 7:

Principle 2. The child shall enjoy a special protection to enable him to develop physically, mentally, and spiritually in a healthy and normal manner.

Principle 7. The child is entitled to receive education, which shall be free and compulsory, at least in the elementary stages, which will promote his general culture and enable him to become a useful member of society. The best interest of the child shall be the guiding principle of those responsible for his education and guidance; that responsibility lies in the first place with his parents. The child shall have full opportunity for play and recreation.

International Play Right Association (IPA)

IPA is an international non-governmental association founded in 1961. Acting as a forum for exchange of ideas and with national organizations in every region of the world, it protects, preserves, and promotes the child's fundamental human right to play. It has nearly 50 members countries. IPA members initiate numerous projects designed to promote the child's right to play, including conferences, study tours, research, publications, design of playgrounds, training, events, organization of play programs, and Play Days. They frequently work with other organizations to promote child welfare and rights (<http://ipaworld.org/>). The IPA Declaration of the Child's Right to Play was issued in November 1977 at IPA Malta Consultation (<http://ipaworld.org/childs-right-to-play/the-childs-right-to-play/>).

1 **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** are a universal call for action serving as
2 guidelines for the global community to adopt in the course of 15 years from September
3 2015 to August 2030. There are provisions concerning health-promoting play spaces:

4 *Goal 3:* Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages.

5 *Goal 11:* Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
6 (use of public space and places for all).

7 **At national level**

8 **Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand B.E. 2560 (2017)**

9 *Article 54:* The State shall ensure that every child receives quality education for twelve
10 years from preschool to the completion of compulsory education free of charge.

11 The State shall ensure that young children receive care and development prior to
12 education under paragraph one to develop their physical body, mind, discipline, emotion,
13 society, and intelligence in accordance with their age and by promoting and supporting
14 local government organizations and the private sector to participate in such undertaking...

15 *Article 71:* The State should strengthen the family unit which is an important basic
16 element of society, provide an appropriate accommodation, promote and develop the
17 enhancement of health in order to enable people to have good health and strong mind as
18 well as promote and develop excellence in sports and to maximize the benefit for the
19 people...

20 **Ministerial Regulation on Setting Minimum Standards for Care, Teaching 21 and Development of Children under Charge B.E. 2549 (2006):** Clause 2:

22 *Clause 2:* A Child must have an accommodation in safe environment and social
23 condition and receive public services not detrimental to his/her life and livelihood...including
24 being given opportunity to participate in community and social activities.

25 **National Child and Youth Development Act B.E. 2550 (2007) and 26 amendment (No. 2) B.E. 2560 (2017):** Chapter 1 General Provisions:

27 Section 6 (5): Children and youth have the rights to play, rest, and participate in
28 recreational activities appropriate to their age and to participate freely in culture and art.

29 **Policies concerned**

30 **Draft Policy and Strategic Plan on Early Childhood B.E. 2560-2564 (2017-
31 2021)** with seven strategies: (1) Managing and allowing for children to get access to
32 services for early childhood development, (2) Developing parental roles, nurturing care, and
33 family roles, (3) Developing the quality of services for early childhood development, (4)
34 Preparing an information system and indicators, (5) Reviewing legal provisions and
35 regulations concerning early childhood and enforcement, (6) Undertaking research,
36 developing and disseminating knowledge, and (7) Managing, monitoring, and evaluation, as
37 well as building networks.

38 **2nd National Child and Youth Development Plan B.E. 2560-2564
39 (2017-2021)** setting a vision that "Children and youth have a good quality of life
40 appropriate to their age, are creative citizens, and participate in social development". The
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1 plan consists of four important strategies: (1) Enhancing potentials and building immunity
2 of children and youth, (2) Developing environmental mechanism beneficial to their life, (3)
3 Mobilizing all strength and resources, and (4) Monitoring, evaluating and generating
4 knowledge.