



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THAILAND  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**136 EAST 39<sup>th</sup> STREET • NEW YORK, NY 10016**

**TEL (212) 754-2230 • FAX (212) 688-3029**

**Opening Remarks**

**by**

**H.E. Mr. Don Pramudwinai**

**Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand**

**at the Side Event**

**“Regional Pathways to the Global Goals:**

**ASEAN’s Approach towards SDGs Implementation and Sustainable  
post Covid-19 Recovery”**

**22 September 2022,**

**Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations, New York**

Dato Lim Jock Hoi, Secretary-General of ASEAN  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished participants,

1. Good afternoon, and a very warm welcome to this side event. Thank you for being with us here today during the busy UNGA High-level Week.
2. **Thailand**, as the ASEAN Coordinator on Sustainable Development Cooperation, appreciates your participation because **sustainability matters**. And it matters even more now that we are almost halfway to the finish line of the 2030 Agenda at the time when the world is facing many other pressing challenges that may have taken our eyes off sustainability.
3. The path ahead does not look easy. A **quadruple shock of COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, conflicts, and supply chain disruption** – has undone years of hard-won progress of sustainable development. According to the UNDP, for the first time in 30 years, the Human Development Index has been set back by 5 years. That is why we urgently need to recommit our resources to make progress on the SDGs.
4. **Despite such a gloomy outlook**, we still **have time** to speed up and make up for the losses. Let me **highlight two important points** in this regard.
5. **First, there can be no sustainable development without peace, and no peace without sustainable development**. Peace and development are simply two sides of the same coin. On one hand, **peace is a key component of sustainable development**. Conflicts have a destructive impact on every country's development. A healthy and stable environment is by all means necessary, if we are to push forward the sustainability agenda and the SDGs.
6. On the other hand, **sustainable development can prevent conflicts**. For ASEAN, sustainable development is one area of **win-win cooperation in the Southeast Asian region** as identified in the **ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific**. Constructive cooperation in this area will help build trust and confidence and bring mutual benefit to all partners. The world has suffered enough already from the pandemic. **We do not need the added stress of confrontation and rivalry**.
7. This brings me to **my second point – enhancing partnerships**, which have always been present in ASEAN's journey towards sustainable development. These partnerships are built upon a shared vision and goals that place people and the planet

at the centre. It has also enabled ASEAN to deliver far more than we could have done alone.

8. The complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, or the so-called “**Complementarities Initiative**”, has served as a regional catalyst and practical approach for driving the ASEAN Community-building process while simultaneously attaining the SDGs.

9. In support of the Complementarities Initiative, **the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue** has been established in Bangkok to serve as **one of regional facilities** to promote and coordinate ASEAN efforts on sustainable development cooperation. It also provides a platform for policy dialogue between ASEAN Member States, and between ASEAN and its external partners.

10. Through **synergies, whole of society approach, and multi-stakeholder engagement**, we can forge meaningful partnerships for the 2030 Agenda. Today’s event, with the participation of long-time partners of ASEAN – Australia, the EU, UNDP, FAO, and the Rockefeller Foundation, among others – augurs well for our collective determination to cross the finish line and achieve the SDGs by 2030.

Excellencies,  
Distinguished participants,

11. In remembrance of Her Majesty the late Queen Elizabeth II, I wish to quote Her Majesty’s words of wisdom at the recent COP26:

*“History has shown that when nations come together in common cause, there is always room for hope. Working side by side, we have the ability to solve the most insurmountable problems and to triumph over the greatest of adversities.”*

12. On this note, I wish this event every success. I also look forward to fruitful exchanges during the panel discussion. This is an opportunity to share homegrown development approaches and locally driven pathways, such as Thailand’s **Bio-Circular-Green, or the BCG, Economy Model**. We will continue to build and expand networks that can enhance partnerships between ASEAN and the world for this noble cause.

I thank you very much.

\*\*\*\*\*