



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

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**Statement
by
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**before the Second Committee
at the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

Agenda item 18: Sustainable Development and sub-items

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Thank you Chair,

1. Thailand aligns itself with the statements delivered by **Pakistan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China**, and by **the Philippines on behalf of ASEAN**.

2. We thank the **Secretary-General** for his reports on this agenda item.

Chair,

3. **2022 is indeed the UN's year of the environment**, with various **"Moments for Nature"** having taken place – Stockholm+50, UNEP@50, the Ocean Conference and so forth. But at this point where we stand now, with the triple planetary crises as a backdrop, we can only see the **looming and possibly gloomy future** ahead of us.

4. In recent weeks and months, we have seen news of **floods in Asia, droughts in Africa, and hurricanes in North America**, costing the lives and livelihoods of communities around the world, setting back hard-earned development gains. Indeed, the General Assembly adopted a resolution last week just to address the floods in Pakistan. These developments remind us that: one, there is a cost to inaction, and two, we are all in this together.

5. It brings me to my first point on the need to build **resilience**. The concept of **building resilience against external shocks** has long been the basis of Thailand's homegrown development approach, the **Bio-Circular-Green Economy Model** based on the **Sufficiency Economy Philosophy**. The UN has also taken up such concept in different frameworks, one of the most notable being the **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction** which emphasizes the importance of preparedness, early warning, and building back better.

6. Beyond disasters, we should also extend this **strategic foresight and risk-informed mindset** in tackling other challenges such as climate change, water and sanitation, and health.

7. The **midterm reviews of the Water Action Decade and the Sendai Framework next year** will be key opportunities to take stock of the progress made, accelerate implementation as well as foster integrated approaches to build resilience in the remaining time to 2030.

8. Moving to my second point, Thailand looks forward to the upcoming planet-centered processes. We look forward to **Egypt's Presidency for the UNFCCC COP27** which is set to be an **"implementation COP"** – we need to move from pledges to implementation – with no backtracking or delay. We hope to **reach consensus on loss and damage, to secure more climate finance – especially for adaptation – and to accelerate climate action.**

9. Moreover, stemming from our overarching **Bio-Circular-Green Economy Model**, Thailand aims to move towards **sustainable plastic management by 2030** through the **circular economy approach**: by reducing plastics both at the production and consumption stages as well as better managing plastic wastes. We therefore look forward to the work of the **INC to develop a legally binding instrument on plastic pollution under UNEA.**

10. On my third and last point, Thailand wishes to emphasize the importance of **partnerships** – between countries, between sectors, and with stakeholders at all levels. With its ambitious and cross-cutting nature, the realization of the 2030 Agenda warrants a **whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach**. With this in mind, many of Thailand's management plans such as those on disasters, water and forestry place emphasis on **active engagement with local communities and stakeholders in decision-making.**

11. We must also **empower and equip** them with the necessary knowledge, skills, and tools in order for them to meaningfully engage in such processes, including through **promoting digital literacy and closing the digital divide**. In the broader picture, we must also harness the benefits of **science, technology and innovation** which has the potential to bring about **transformative solutions** to 21st century challenges.

Chair,

12. As we approach the **midpoint to 2030 while recovering from the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19**, Thailand hopes that all of us here in the Second Committee can work together constructively through these challenging times, and prove that the UN can make a difference in **building back better, greener and safer**, and to create a **sustainable and resilient future for all**.

13. I thank you.