



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

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Statement

by

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at the G-77 Ministerial Conference

**under the theme “Achieving the SDGs: Addressing Present Challenges
and Building Resilience Against Future Crises”**

UNHQ, New York, 15 December 2022

Chair,
Excellencies,

1. Thailand wishes to commend Pakistan for its strong leadership in bringing us together here in New York to address challenges and to underscore the position of the Group of 77 and China on key issues in preparation for very important processes that await us in 2023. These include the SDG Summit, Third South Summit, High-level Meeting on UHC and other health processes, and the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, as well as the Summit of the Future in 2024.

2. In view of these processes, allow me to make the following four points:

3. First, as 2023 is the **midway point between the adoption of SDGs in 2015 and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda**, Thailand wishes to reiterate that these processes, and especially the SDG Summit, are of vital importance for us developing countries. These are opportunities to **review progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and our path towards attaining the SDGs**, recommend policies, and undertake measures to **put SDGs back on track**. Because without sustainable development, there is no future.

4. A sustainable future can be achieved through applying **more balanced development efforts in all dimensions** which will instill **greater resilience against current challenges and future crises**. To achieve the right balance, we stress the importance of **homegrown and locally driven development approaches**, recognizing the uniqueness of developing countries. For years, Thailand has been developing and actively sharing our **Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP)** and **Bio-Circular-Green Economy Model (BCG)** for more sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth.

5. As the host of APEC 2022, Thailand has successfully pushed for **a more robust cooperation on sustainable development through the adoption of the Bangkok Goals on BCG Economy**, as APEC's first comprehensive goals on sustainability and inclusivity agendas. These focus on 4 key areas including climate change mitigation, sustainable trade and investment, environmental conservation and waste management.

6. Second, we must use this important juncture in the **COVID-19 recovery phase** to build back better and greener, in a more sustainable, resilient and inclusive manner. The pandemic is a stark reminder of pre-existing vulnerabilities that may hamper our hard-earned development gains. That is why we must commit to work towards **building preparedness and resilience**, in line with the **human security approach**.

7. One prime example is **investing in our people's health**, which is a precondition for successful sustainable development. In particular, Thailand sees **Universal Health Coverage** as a cost-effective measure of social protection to guarantee that those left furthest behind will not fall into financial hardships or poverty from accessing even the most basic health services. Therefore, as **one of the co-facilitators** for the political declaration of the High-level Meeting on UHC next year, Thailand looks forward to working closely with fellow members of the G77 and China so that we can arrive at a strong and action-oriented outcome that will support developing countries to achieve UHC.

8. Third, in view of the unequal impact of the pandemic on developing countries, resulting in debt distress and global economic downturn, Thailand wishes to stress on **financing for development** and **global partnerships**. It is important to voice the call by vulnerable countries **for greater disbursement of concessional financing**. Also, we support the UN Secretary-General's call for **the reform of the international financial system** to better address the crises faced by many developing countries.

9. And fourth, on **global partnerships**, North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation can bring much needed best practices to help overcome developmental challenges. We also need to accord special attention to **Africa and vulnerable countries, including Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developing Countries (LDCs), and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs)**. Thailand has leveraged ourselves in many initiatives and technical cooperation, including promoting sustainable agriculture, and human resource development through scholarships and cooperation with institutions and our 'Friends from Thailand' volunteer programme. And we stand ready to promote further cooperation in the coming years.

10. In conclusion, I strongly believe that the processes due to take place in 2023 in one way can also be seen through the lens of our preparation for the **Summit of the Future**. These issues are critical to the future world and future generations – the Group of 77 and China should thus act in the **spirit of unity and solidarity** to make sure that the voices and interests of developing countries will be heard and heeded, and that we can be assured of a future that we all would want and where everyone is a part of. The work for our tomorrow began yesterday, but must be set in the right direction today by this important group.

11. Thank you.
