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Statement

by

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of the Kingdom of Thailand to the United Nations**

**At the General Debate of the Second Committee
78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

Under the theme “Building a sustainable recovery for all”

UNHQ, 2 October 2023

Chair,

1. I join others in congratulating you and other members of the Bureau on your election and to assure you of my delegation's full support. Thailand aligns itself with the statements made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and on behalf of ASEAN.

2. Halfway to 2030, we are off target and off pace with regard to SDGs. The world's poorest and most vulnerable are bearing the brunt of our failure. Poverty continues to be the greatest global challenge. Economic, health and environmental challenges are leaving many developing countries with fewer and fewer options.

3. During the SDG Summit, the General Debate and other high-level events just two weeks ago, our Leaders have expressed strong political will and commitment to overcome the SDG crisis and turn things around. As the Thai Prime Minister underscored at the SDG Summit, "we must act now for a better tomorrow". In so doing, we need transformative actions, driven by political will, reinforced by international solidarity, and anchored on effective multilateralism.

4. So Thailand wishes to highlight the following four points:

5. First, Thailand emphasizes that people should be at the centre of our inclusive development policies. To ensure inclusiveness, we need to localize SDGs and promote a stronger delivery of the agenda through the whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach.

6. On our part, Thailand's efforts to localize the SDGs is guided by the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP), which aims at building sustainable, resilient and inclusive communities, including through community-based social innovation and entrepreneurship.

7. Second, to enable developing countries to deal with unprecedented rise in external debt, inflation and rising interest rates, we need a systematic overhaul -- through reform of global governance and of international financial institutions. We need an international financial architecture that is fit for purpose and ensures the voice and participation of developing countries. Multilateral Development Banks should be strengthened to provide greater access to financing and resource mobilization, including through concessional loans for developing countries.

8. We also need to focus on ensuring adequate means of implementation, especially on financing for development. We call for the full and timely implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda which is an integral part of the

2030 Agenda. We welcome the Secretary General's call for SDG Stimulus of 500 billion USD a year until 2030.

9. While public finance is the main source to drive sustainable development, the private sector can contribute through innovative finance to foster strategic long-term investment in the SDGs.

10. Third, we must urgently protect our planet. While recognizing that progress has happened, including the adoption of Kunming-Montreal Global Diversity Framework and decision by the UNFCCC COP 27 to establish new funding arrangements for assisting developing countries and a fund for responding to loss and damage, much remains to be done.

11. Enhanced actions in developing countries cannot happen without adequate and predictable support. We therefore strongly call on developed countries to fulfill the financial commitment to provide 100 billion USD to climate finance and to at least double climate finance for adaptation. We also call for full operationalization of the loss and damage fund at the COP28 to assist developing countries in addressing loss and damage.

12. We must also mobilise and scale up resources for biodiversity. In this regard, we welcome the launch of the new Global Biodiversity Framework Fund and urge more countries to contribute to its capitalisation.

13. At the recent Climate Ambition Summit here in New York, my Prime Minister highlighted some of Thailand's domestic efforts to address climate change, including the adoption of Green Finance Mechanism and the implementation of Utility Green Tariff programme. We stand ready to actively contribute to global efforts to rescue our planet.

14. Fourth and lastly, sustainable future cannot happen without global partnership. Developed countries can support developing countries in their transformative actions. Thailand, as a developing country, has done its part: through South-South and triangular cooperation – we currently have development cooperation programmes with more than 25 developing countries across regions.

Chair,

15. Let me conclude by reiterating the following: without sustainable development and the SDGs, there is no sustainable future. So no development, no future. Our work during this Session will help take forward the SDGs and lay the groundwork for next year's Summit of the Future. Its outcome, the Pact for the Future, should have sustainable development as one of its main elements and contributes to the full achievement of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs.

16. Thailand stands ready to work closely with the international community to fulfill our collective promise to present and future generations: and that is to protect our planet and to leave no one behind. But we are also inspired by the hope that ultimately, some day, we can go beyond this, and that is to ensure better prosperity, shared prosperity, for all.

17. Thank you.
