



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

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Statement

by

H.E. Dr. Suriya Chindawongse

**Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of the Kingdom of Thailand to the United Nations**

at the Symposium

**“New Progress of the Global Development Initiative,
New Action to Support the 2030 Agenda”**

19 April 2023, UNHQ, New York

Co-chairs,
Mr. Moderator,

1. I am pleased to attend this timely Symposium organized by China to discuss progress on the Global Development Initiative (GDI) and underscore the critical importance of resuscitating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). I thank the speakers for their insightful presentations and wish to make three points:

2. First, **the 2030 SDGs remain at risk**. It is thus our shared priority and responsibility to bring them back on track. In tandem with the UN Secretary-General's call for the rescue of the SDGs, such as through the proposed SDG Stimulus and the SDGs Summit in September, countries and regions also have significant contributions to make. The GDI is one such leading example to which we are pleased to extend our support. Because we believe that international cooperation and partnerships at all levels, including South-South and triangular cooperation, are central to the attainment of the SDGs. This is especially relevant as we approach the mid-term point in SDG implementation, and enhanced efforts and transformative actions are much needed.

3. As a founding member of the Group of Friends of the GDI, Thailand is pleased with concrete outcomes especially following the recent meeting on the Global Development Promotion Centre (GDPC) Network. Thailand participated in the "Inauguration Meeting and First Director-General Level Dialogue of GDPC Network" held in January this year. We look forward to closer cooperation with the GPDC.

4. Second, Thailand itself has long been a strong advocate for a more balanced and sustainable development. It is in our DNA. We have been promoting the Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) Economy Model, which builds on the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP), our long-standing locally driven development approach. We have shared this approach with

our partners in ASEAN and APEC: in ASEAN, through the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue in Bangkok which is incidentally also a “toddler” and also receives support from the Rockefeller Foundation; and in APEC, where the Asia-Pacific region adopted the Bangkok Goals on the BCG Economy.

5. Third, beyond the Asia-Pacific, Thailand has been working with countries and partners to promote sustainable development in countries in Africa and Latin America in various fields, ranging from education, health, agriculture, natural resources and environment. The Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) has been at the forefront to strengthen development cooperation and partnerships. And we stand ready to work with partners within the GDI, including China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA), to build on what we have done and achieved so far. We certainly look forward to fruitful and concrete discussions at this forum.

6. To conclude: Promoting sustainable development is not only a “just cause”, as Director Tang Ying referred to earlier, but also a vital necessity that is in all our interests. Because **without sustainable development, there is no future**. We should keep this in mind as we deliberate on the future here at the UN. So let us continue to rescue the SDGs: through the UN, through the GDI and through regional, triangular, and bilateral efforts based on mutual benefits.

7. Thank you.
