



**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**

**Statement**

**by**

**His Excellency Dr. Suriya Chindawongse  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative  
of Thailand to the United Nations**

**at the High-Level Meeting of the UN General Assembly  
on The Role of Zero Waste as a Transformative Solution  
in Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals**

**New York, 30 March 2023**

**General Assembly Hall**

Madam Vice President,

1. At the outset, Thailand commends the convening of this High-Level Meeting on Zero Waste, pursuant to UN General Assembly resolution 77/161, as a platform for sharing best practices on national, regional and global zero waste initiatives. All of these have implications on the environment, climate change and the SDGs which remain under stress.

2. Thailand welcomes Türkiye's leadership to promote sustainable consumption and production through zero waste approaches and appreciates the remarks made earlier by the UN Secretary-General, the Vice President of the General Assembly and the First Lady of the Republic of Türkiye.

3. The reduction and eventual elimination of waste is indeed a transformative agent in helping achieve the SDGs. It is also an important foundation to realizing a more efficient economy, a cleaner environment, contributing to better health security and human security for all.

4. Reducing and eliminating waste is an integral part of Thailand's sustainable development approach, anchored on the Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) Economy Model. As one of the BCG's pillars, the Circular Economy aims to enhance resource efficiency throughout its life cycle, steer production and consumption patterns towards eco-design, mitigate impacts on the environment and achieve zero waste.

5. Of the many actions undertaken by the Thai Government, let me highlight one example -- reducing and eliminating plastic waste.

6. At the national level, Thailand has developed a Roadmap on Plastic Waste Management 2018-2030 which centers on an inclusive approach for managing plastic waste. Our goal is to achieve 100 percent recycling for target materials and the reduction of marine debris by at least 50 percent by 2027.

7. We have also announced a complete ban on import of plastic scraps by the end of 2024. This will help promote domestic recycling of plastic waste and enhance efforts to prevent plastic waste from being smuggled into the country.

8. At the regional level, the reduction and elimination of plastic waste and marine debris remains a priority for ASEAN for which Thailand plays a leading role.

9. Following the adoption of the Bangkok Declaration on Combatting Marine Debris during Thailand's ASEAN Chairmanship in 2019, an ASEAN Regional Action Plan for Combatting Marine Debris in which the ASEAN Member States was adopted two years later in 2021. This is a practical framework for the region to come together to provide comprehensible, scalable solutions to address the marine debris challenge in an integrated manner.

10. Globally, Thailand welcomes the establishment of the International Negotiating Committee (INC) to develop an international legally binding instrument to tackle plastic pollution and is actively engaged in this process.

11. Capacity building, technology transfer and adequate financial resources are key, especially for developing countries, to address plastic pollution and ensure effective implementation of a possible legally binding instrument.

12. Looking ahead to the upcoming INC2 in Paris, Thailand will continue to work constructively with all parties and stakeholders to develop an ambitious instrument to help address global plastic pollution and move us closer towards sustainable consumption and production.

13. In closing, let me reiterate that it is Thailand's hope that concerted international action to achieving zero waste will continue to contribute to our ongoing collective efforts to attaining the SDGs which remains a critical priority of humanity.

14. Thank you.

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