

Country Statement of Thailand
delivered by H.E. Mr. Sarun Charoensuwan,
Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Thailand
at the 79th session of the Economic and Social Commission
for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
at ESCAP Hall, UNCC, Bangkok, on 15 May 2023

Madam Chair,
Madam Executive Secretary,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Participants,

1. First, allow me to congratulate you, Madam Chair, on your assumption as Chair of the 79th Commission Session. It is also an honour for me to welcome distinguished delegates to Bangkok.
2. Today, we are at a critical juncture in our efforts to achieve sustainable development. Climate Change affects communities and countries, and has caused insecurities for people worldwide. Despite the climate ambitions announced by many countries, concrete actions are still inadequate. Tackling this global threat requires concerted efforts to speed up transformative actions in all sectors. Allow me to share our thoughts:
3. First, building resilience of communities and countries is critical to enable them to adapt to and withstand the effects of climate change. In the longer term, we need to work towards a more sustainable development pathway by making necessary changes to create more balanced, sustained and inclusive growth.
4. Countries have their own wisdoms and development approaches that can be exchanged and contribute to this end. For Thailand, the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy guides our development efforts. The SEP which advocates living in moderation and with prudence helps improve the lives and livelihoods of people and communities while striking balance in all aspects, be they economic, social or environment, thereby making them more resilient to crises.
5. Building on the SEP, the Bio-Circular-Green or BCG Economy Model is being promoted as a practical approach to post Covid-19 recovery and sustainable growth. We stand ready to share our approaches with interested partners. Through South-South and Triangular cooperation, Thailand has been engaging with partners on various training and capacity-building projects based on these development approaches. Also, as we bid to host the Specialised Expo

2028 in Phuket, Thailand hopes to showcase our development efforts to make the local economy more sustainable, green and resilient with the ultimate aim of eradicating social, public health and environmental disparities.

6. Second, building resilience and scaling up climate actions require expertise and resources, be they human or monetary. Therefore, we wish to stress the importance of climate finance, technology transfer and capacity building to assist developing countries, including Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States particularly those most vulnerable to the effects of climate change to assist them in their climate action.

7. Third, digital technology and innovation should be further leveraged to assist in information and data gathering which is vital for policy- and decision-making on climate issues. Technology and innovation is also an important part of climate change adaptation and mitigation, as well as the transition to a low-carbon economy.

8. Thailand, therefore, appreciates the focus of this year's Commission Session on climate change, as well as the organization of the Climate Solutions Fair, which provides us with a unique opportunity to exchange ideas and deepen collaboration to address this challenge at all levels. As a member and host country of ESCAP, Thailand is committed to working with all partners to drive forward climate action and sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region.

Distinguished Participants,

9. As we move towards 2030, there is a need to look at how best to measure sustainability based on the well-being of people and the planet. Sustainable development is about the people, and the SDGs are based on human rights. This is part of why Thailand has presented our candidature for membership of the Human Rights Council for the term 2025-2027. We hope to work with partners to ensure that all persons enjoy their human rights. Without human rights, there can be no sustainable development, and vice versa. Thailand looks forward to your support.

10. I thank you.
