

**Intervention by Ms. Chatvadee Chindawongse,  
Director of the ASEAN Strategy and Cooperation Division,  
ASEAN Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand  
at the 79<sup>th</sup> Session of the ESCAP**

**Agenda Item 2(b): Sub-regional perspectives on  
“Accelerating Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific for Sustainable  
Development: Strengthening Sub-regional Cooperation”  
on Tuesday 16 May 2023 at 14.00-15.30 hrs., via videoconference  
(3 minutes)**

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1. I thank all speakers for the presentations, which highlight the key role of regional groupings in accelerating actions to cope with climate change and promoting sustainable post-COVID-19 recovery in the Asia-Pacific.

2. Climate change is a major concern for ASEAN, as Southeast Asia is one of the world’s most at-risk regions to its impacts. This issue, coupled with other challenges such as food and energy security and environmental degradation, has indeed turned the urgency to act into a necessity to rethink our strategies and accelerate our actions.

3. In this connection, as the ASEAN Coordinator for Sustainable Development Cooperation, allow me to share Thailand’s perspectives on advancing regional cooperation on this matter as follows:

4. **First**, given the mutually reinforcing nature of climate goals and the SDGs, a **complementarity approach with targeted actions** should be emphasised to ensure multiplier co-benefits of our actions. ESCAP could facilitate and assist governments and key actors in the region to identify policy pathways that could maximise climate and SDGs synergies.

5. Regional strategies and action plans can also complement the global goals in this regard. In ASEAN, the complementarity approach is being undertaken through enhancing the complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development or the **Complementarities Initiative** in short, with particular emphasis on resilience, climate action and sustainable management of natural resources, among others. This approach has enabled ASEAN to focus our limited resources on specific priority areas and has been one of the frameworks for promoting sustainable development cooperation both within ASEAN and with our partners.

6. Second, emphasis should be placed on **leveraging the potential of digital technologies as an enabling factor** to help deliver climate goals and the SDGs. Digital innovation creates new possibilities for climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as accelerate SDGs progress. So it is important that countries in the region are equipped with sufficient know-how and technical capacities, particularly in such key areas as circular economy, green financing, EV ecosystem, and clean energy.

7. Third, simultaneously addressing climate change and SDGs requires **strong partnerships both between various local prime movers and between countries in the region**. As such, ASEAN continues to reinforce partnerships for SDGs through relevant Bodies and Centres. One such centre is the **ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue or ACSDDSD in Bangkok**.

8. The Centre has been instrumental in enhancing partnerships on sustainability, with a particular focus on areas such as sustainable management of natural resources, sustainable consumption and production, and resilience. We look forward to concrete cooperation between ASEAN and our partners through the ACSDDSD.

9. In closing, ASEAN and Thailand will work with all stakeholders in finding synergies among our priorities and enhancing our actions towards the attainment of the SDGs in Asia-Pacific. Only through shared commitment, unified action and synchronized efforts can we effectively deliver the common agenda of sustainable development to our peoples.

Thank you.