

## Intervention by Thailand

**Agenda item 4 Review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific and issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Commission (continued):**

**(h) Trade, investment, enterprise and business innovation**

**18 May 2023, 14:00-16:00 hrs. at ESCAP Hall, UNCC and online**

Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Climate change has significant impacts to global and regional trade and investment in areas ranging from industrial production to trading patterns, services, and consumer behaviors as well as investment decision. As a result, global and regional organizations are adopting global climate strategies aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating the impacts of climate change—such as the **Green Deal Pillar** and **Climate-Smart Trade**, that seek to address the challenges posed by climate change in the context of trade and investment.

As a country that heavily relies on manufacturing and service industries, Thailand has a significant role to play in response to the global direction. In this regard, Thai business and private sectors need to adopt low- to zero-emission measures and practices in their investment, manufacturing, and trading processes. The **Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research, and Innovation of Thailand**, or MHESI, is an important organization that encourages innovation and entrepreneurship, linking university with industry and providing knowledge infrastructure to support innovation by business sector. As evident in our five-year action plan for science, research, and innovation (2023-2027), research and innovation are geared in the direction of sustainable development.

Since 2015, MHESI has initiated **Green Campus** network, bringing together 160 universities and research institutions nationwide to share knowledge and best practices on the implementation of SDGs and net zero approaches through activities that also involve local communities to leverage sustainable business and activities. Currently, Green Campus has evolved into the 'Sustainable University Network of Thailand', which is driving SDG implementation in universities and collaborating with stakeholders to share knowledge and support each other. Important stakeholders include micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) which contribute about one-third of GDP in 2021 but constitute over 90% of business enterprises in Thailand.

The Thai Government through MHESI advocates the **BCG model** of economic development, which integrates bioeconomy, circular economy, and green economy to achieve SDGs. Adoption of the BCG model has been promoted through policy instruments encouraging the private sector to enhance competitiveness and sustainability. The BCG indicators have been developed to measure the progress of GHG emission reduction toward achieving net zero by 2050. The **Office of National Higher Education Science Research and Innovation Policy Council (NXPO)** under MHESI is instrumental in driving the BCG policy through multi-stakeholder partnership, including international collaboration with ESCAP and other international development partners.

Going forward, Asia and the Pacific must confront new challenges resulting from the disruptive effects of climate change on traditional methods of production, trade, and consumption. Thailand will continue to play a constructive role in addressing these global and regional challenges in the spirit of the SDGs. Thank you.