

**Opening Remarks by  
H.E. Mr. Don Pramudwinai  
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs  
of the Kingdom of Thailand  
at the 7<sup>th</sup> High-Level Brainstorming Dialogue on Enhancing  
Complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the  
UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development  
Friday, 31 March 2023, 14.00 hours, VIE Hotel, Bangkok**

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**Madam Co-Chair, Executive Secretary Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana,  
Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, Secretary-General of ASEAN,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished participants,**

1. It is my pleasure to once again co-chair the High-Level Brainstorming Dialogue with Madam Executive Secretary of UNESCAP. I wish to welcome the ASEAN Secretary-General-Dr. Kao Kim Hourn and his participation at this Dialogue today.

2. It gives me great satisfaction to have participated in this forum for 7 years running since 2017. It is one indication of Thailand's commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the responsible and constructive role ASEAN could play in this global agenda. I thank UNESCAP for the excellent collaboration which bodes well for the prospect of the SDGs, for this Dialogue was proven to be an important platform to spring forward to achieve the ambitious Sustainable Development Goals.

3. I am heartened by the strong momentum in support of regional efforts to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, now in its 10<sup>th</sup> year, has become a mainstay. We also have the ASEAN Ministerial Dialogue on Advancing Actions to achieve the SDGs, which we hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition this morning at this very same venue.

**Excellencies, Distinguished participants,**

4. The world now is facing a plethora of unprecedented challenges compared to 7 years ago. The COVID-19 pandemic, wars, environmental degradation and rapid technology transformation have forced us to rethink our strategies. Uncertainties caused by geopolitical tensions, energy and food

shortages, rising poverty and inequality, inflation and climate change have all further added to a sense of urgency to advance actions on the sustainability agenda.

5. At previous Brainstorming sessions, I have suggested that the “Bio-Circular-Green or BCG Economic Model” could be part of ASEAN’s post-COVID recovery mechanism as the BCG is applicable to all the five priority areas under the Complementarities Initiative.

6. I had also shared ideas that could contribute to accelerate SDGs implementation such as enhancing innovation and digitalisation, mainstreaming sustainable development into ASEAN’s cooperation, fostering enhanced partnerships and youth empowerment and engagement. Building on these ideas and looking ahead in the context of the ASEAN Community’s Post-2025 Vision, I would like to share a few thoughts.

7. **First, sustainable development** should be promoted as an area for **win-win cooperation** that contributes to the implementation of the **ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP)** and helps promote strategic collaboration between countries in the region. This will bring about a more constructive engagement among major powers and make Indo-Pacific a region of development and prosperity for all.

8. **Second, more emphasis must be put on fostering SDGs localisation.** Despite being large-scale, overarching goals for countries to strive towards, the implementation of most of the 169 SDG targets requires local solutions. Specific needs of each community must be taken into account.

9. In light of this, local champions and best practices, both within ASEAN and from external partners, can be a viable departure point through which success can be shared. ASEAN can work together with our partners and stakeholders to further empower local communities and drive local SDGs implementation.

10. My **last point is to leverage new opportunities to enhance SDGs progress.** Technological advances and changes in social norms can serve as catalysts and useful tools at our disposal. For instance, the green energy transition momentum has led to rapid development of green technologies and lower costs in renewable power generation. Digital

technologies help improve access to essential services including education, healthcare, and finance.

11. Sustainability has now become a corporate imperative, and young people have now been at the forefront of a global movement towards sustainability. ASEAN must take advantage of these changes and build on these opportunities to accelerate the achievements of the SDGs in the region.

**Excellencies, Distinguished participants,**

12. Partnership is a crucial enabling factor for the success of our common sustainability agenda. When all countries acknowledge the common benefits and strengthen cooperation on this matter, it can nurture trust and promote peace and stability in the region and beyond. This is a fundamental factor in ensuring the well-being of our peoples. As the ASEAN Coordinator for Sustainable Development Cooperation, Thailand is steadfast in our commitment to working closely with all partners towards this end.

13. In parting, I wish this Dialogue every success and I look forward to its fruitful and practical outcomes.

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