Country Statement of Thailand
by Mr. Paisan Rupanichkij
Deputy Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Thailand
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Mister/Madam Chair,
Madam Executive Secretary,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

1. As we convene for the 81st Session, it is important to acknowledge rapid developments impacting every aspect of our lives. From the unrelenting impact of climate change to the rapid pace of technological progress, the Asia and the Pacific region is also experiencing profound demographic changes from a rapidly aging population and growing urbanization.

2. ESCAP's "2025 Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report" highlights our region's progress towards achieving the SDGs. However, significant concerns remain across many of the Goals, particularly SDG13 on Climate Action.

3. The year 2024 has set a new and alarming precedent as the hottest year on record. This underlines the urgency of implementing effective mitigation and adaptation measures, including investments in climate- and disaster-resilient infrastructure as well as early warning systems.

4. On our part, Thailand's commitment towards a low-carbon society is reflected in our efforts to expand renewable energy capacity, including by promoting the adoption of solar rooftops within our communities.

5. We are also determined to reduce emissions from the transport sector, including by promoting the use of clean energy, greater use of public transportation, and enhancing energy efficiency. A key initiative, in this regard, is the expansion of our rail transport network across the country.

Excellencies,

6. In light of the significant demographic changes in many countries in our region, we must prioritize inclusive urban development. Thailand recognizes the importance of building caring communities that are supportive of older persons. To accommodate the health-related needs arising from an aging society, Thailand continues to improve our Universal Health Coverage, including through the use of telemedicine.

7. In this digital age, it is imperative to leverage digital innovations to improve the effectiveness of public service delivery and ensure that no one is left behind. Thailand is committed to developing digital infrastructure and promoting access to digital technologies to facilitate economic and social opportunities for all.

Excellencies,

8. Inclusive and sustainable development will remain a distant goal, unless we prioritize SDG localization where local communities play a key role in driving the advancement of the SDGs. In recognition of this, Thailand places importance on public participation, whereby citizens contribute to identifying their community development needs and formulating their own solutions.

9. We must also leverage innovative financing mechanisms. Thailand's introduction of sustainability-linked bonds, the first of its kind in Asia, is an innovative approach aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting green and just transition.

10. Partnerships and multi-stakeholder collaboration remain critical for financing and achieving sustainable development as a whole. Thailand's private sector has demonstrated strong leadership in corporate sustainability, highlighting public-private partnerships as a powerful tool for advancing the SDGs.

11. Last but not least, regional cooperation, including South-South and trilateral cooperation, is very essential. For the past six years, Thailand and ESCAP have organized Asia-Pacific Directors-General Forum on South-South and Triangular Cooperation or APDG to facilitate dialogue, foster knowledge-sharing and promote peer-learning.

12. Last year, the APDG was held under the theme "Resilient and Sustainable Urban Development though South-South Cooperation" to address the important issue of urbanization. This Thursday on 24th of April, we will organise a study tour for representatives from small island developing states to visit a housing project for low-income families. This project demonstates the tangible fullfilment of SDGs 3, 6,11 and 17

Excellencies,

13. With only five years remaining to fulfill our ambitions set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we must continue to work together with optimism and determination to fully implement the SDGs for our world, our own future, and our future generations.

Thank you.

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