Statement by
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for Asia and the Pacific
Committee of the Whole: (d) Social Development
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Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. On behalf of the Royal Thai Government, it is my pleasure to address the seventy-seventh session of the Commission of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on Social Development here today. I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm Thailand’s commitment to promote an inclusive and barrier-free society for all, especially amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

Excellencies,

2. As the pandemic has continued to cause an adverse impact on socio-economic development, under the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy, Thailand has strengthened our efforts to revive the economy by embracing the new business model of the Bio-Circular-Green Economy as the core mechanism to encourage a locally driven approach towards sustainability. Moreover, Thailand has initiated the 5-year project to reach out to the vulnerable at household level with the vital support from volunteers all over the country. The Service Tracking System has been introduced to provide the 24-hour service to the target groups in making inquiries on existing social protection programmes.

3. We fully realize that the advancement in social protection system will lead to a more effective way of “Building Back Better” and is the key priority that we emphasize.

4. For child development, the monthly Child Support Grant of 600 Baht has been continuously improved to support more than two million new-born
children in 2021, along with the 15-year free education program to provide equal access to education throughout the country.

5. To enhance the rights of persons with disabilities in a new normal way, Thailand has progressively initiated substantial activities, such as promoting vocational trainings and suitable employment aligning with the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Act (2007). The Disability Allowance has also been extended to 1,000 Baht per month covering children with disabilities under the age of 18.

Excellencies,

6. As Thailand will become a complete aged society with the proportion of older population at 20 percent, in respect to the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, we have developed proactive measures on both policy and practice levels. The Universal Health Coverage scheme providing comprehensive health care services and home health care programs have succeeded in facilitating access to services to all age groups. The rights-based income security in a form of Old Age Allowance has been provided as a non-contributory program to financially assist the elderly.

7. Moreover, in order to promote good quality of life of low-income earners and ease their cost of living during the pandemic, the Royal Thai Government has launched the half-half co-payment scheme and financial aid, along with the affordable home-for-rent scheme for only 999 Baht per month or 29 USD.

Excellencies,

8. In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm Thailand’s commitment to ensure progress on implementation towards the achievement of the SDGs in line with the Action Plan to Strengthen Regional Cooperation on Social Protection in Asia and the Pacific. As the world is recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, Thailand remains convinced that long-term investment in social protection system, together with the multilateralism is crucial to guard against unwanted situations and provide a strong foundation for inclusive economic growth and sustainable development in which no one is left behind.

Thank you.