Agenda 4: Review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific and issues pertinent to subsidiary structure of the commission

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

1. Since last year, the COVID-19 pandemic has been shaking the world, leading to a slowdown of economic growth and threatening the achievements of 2030 agenda for sustainable development in many areas.

2. The Royal Thai Government has made every effort to develop and implement a green recovery plan to turn this COVID 19 crisis into opportunities to rebuild climate-resilient economy by promoting energy-efficient buildings, green transportation, and renewable energy development. For the long-term solution, the Royal Thai Government promotes Bio Circular Green (BCG) Economy, the new economic development model, as one of the Thailand’s priorities after the Pandemic outbreak. The BCG Economy is aimed for empowering local economies, enhancing bio-resource management using technology and innovation, and applying the “zero waste” principle to the production processes.

3. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment is also working to support the implementation of BCG. This includes drafting the climate change and biodiversity acts, which will be the significant instruments in achieving climate and nature friendly economic development. In addition, since last year, our ministry has implemented various measures to address an increase in plastic wastes resulted from the pandemic. For example, we signed the MOU with food delivery businesses to reduce the use of plastic containers, as well as cooperated with private sectors and local government to set up a pilot model of
plastic waste drop-off stations from households for further recycling and upcycling. Moreover, under the Plastic Roadmap, we set a target to recycle plastic wastes by 100% in 2027.

4. Finally, the Sixth of Committee of Environment and Development decided to establish the Technical Expert Group on Environment and Development which would enhance regional efforts on environmental and sustainable development. However, we would like to reiterate that Technical Expert Group should not create an extra burden to member countries in terms of financial and other resources because now many developing countries have to use a lot of our resources in tackling the COVID-19 pandemic. Thailand would like to urge the Secretariat to provide the terms of reference of this Technical Expert Group to member States for our considerations.

Thank you.