

Session 4: Thailand

Excellencies

Distinguished delegates

During the past day and today, we have heard a very insightful deliberations and views on the way forward of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the role of ESCAP as one of the regional commissions to bridge the gap between global vision and national action.

This proves as the resounding message that regional commissions, such as ESCAP, shall continue to serve as a regional platform for peer learning and sharing of best practices, trends and gaps including the follow up and review function of the APFSD at the regional level, which should be built on shared targets and be in coherence with the agreement at the global level.

Thailand is of the view that our region needs a meaningful roadmap as a guidelines for ESCAP in working together with member states to provide regional cooperation to facilitate the implementation of the Agenda in the region. We support further discussion in this regard on the priorities, action areas, possible mechanisms and timelines.

Having said that, the role and contributions of other regional and subregional organizations such as ASEAN cannot be overemphasized. United Nations System at the regional level should work in synergy and in coordination with ESCAP and other regional and subregional organizations to maximize the resources and expertise.

Distinguished delegates,

Thailand wish to stress the following ‘regional priorities’ from our viewpoint.

First, equality stands out as a central and cross-cutting topic in the region. It becomes clear that human resource development lies in the heart of the country’s development. Thailand has made continued efforts to strengthen social protection and create a more equal and just society to reduce inequality for all.

Second, education is considered a long-term investment. Thailand has attached importance to promoting life-long, inclusive and quality education. Education also plays an important role in the country's efforts to raise awareness on sustainable development, particularly in climate change-related education.

The next priority is health. Thailand has set up the Universal Coverage Scheme (UCS) to provide access to effective and affordable health care for all. It is evident that health is a far-reaching topic that also has direct links with other regional priorities, such as disaster risk reduction.

My last point touches upon the use of STI. Thailand also attaches great importance on STI for disaster management, SMEs and rural development. Leveraging STI in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda will not be possible without streamlining STI into national human resources development to bridge the knowledge divide

We also must not forget cross-border issues such as transactional crimes, climate change and migration.

In conclusion, the Asia-Pacific has had our own successes and challenges. We must work further together to realize the ambitious 2030 Agenda and transform the region into hotspots for actions on sustainable development.