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Statement by
Ms. Kanchana Patarachoke,
Acting Director-General of International Organizations
on ‘Perspectives on achieving the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development’
(Agenda Item 2(a) Global to regional context of follow-up and review
for the 2030 Agenda and implications for Asia-Pacific)
at the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development 2017
at UNCC, Bangkok
on 29 March 2017 from 10.05-10.30 hours (TBC)

Mr./Madam Chair,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I have the honour to share Thailand’s perspectives and experience on advancing
the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

First and foremost, Thailand realized early on that in implementing the
SDGs, we need to transform our mindset and ways of working to enhance
coordination and policy coherence, which is why within a week after returning
from the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda,
the Prime Minister convened the first meeting of the National Committee for
Sustainable Development (CSD).

The Committee, chaired by the Prime Minister, is Thailand’s main and highest
mechanism overseeing national efforts in implementing the 2030 Agenda. It
comprises members from related public and private sectors, and representatives
of CSOs and the academia, with the Secretary-General of National Economic and
Social Development Board (NESDB) as secretariat. The Committee has
undertaken steps to advance the SDGs implementation, including
the establishment of coordinating body, the promotion of development
approaches based on Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) among line
agencies and partners, the formulation of roadmaps for all 17 SDGs, the
identification of gaps and discrepancies between the national baselines and the
proposed global indicators. It has also identified 30 priorities targets from 17
goals which would make a great impact on Thailand’s sustainable endeavour, to
be urgently implemented.
Second, Thailand attaches great importance to stakeholder engagement in implementing the SDGs.

Apart from mainstreaming SDGs into government plans and policies through various coordinating bodies under CSD, NESDB has conducted several rounds of stakeholder engagement to inform private sectors and CSOs as well as the Legislative branch of what the government has done so far and extend to them an open invitation for their participation in implementing the SDGs.

We can proudly say that the SDGs already gain attention among various stakeholders. Some of the private sectors, CSO, academia have expressed their readiness to work with the government in SDGs of their interest. The UN Global Compact Thailand is very active in mainstreaming SDGs and human rights standards into business operations. Some Thai CSOs have organized their own SDGs regional forums to come up with their collective view on concerns and priorities under the SDGs. The academia also contributes in advancing the 2030 agenda; they were instrumental in creating platform and methodology in prioritizing SDGs in the Thai context. They also offer research fund for topics on each of the SDGs.

We have found that stakeholder engagement at the policy level promotes trust and understanding among stakeholders, forges shared vision on the country SDGs and can lead to a great chain reaction of SDGs buy-in. And we will continue our efforts to promote multi-stakeholder engagement on SDGs.

Third, Thailand strongly believes in the power of youth to collectively make a difference and to advance the SDGs. We deem that sustainability mindset and spirit of cooperation should be promoted among the younger generations. Hence we engage youth in our ‘SEP for SDGs Partnerships’ to raise awareness on SDGs among students and teachers around the country as well as to share our development approach based on the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy with other countries.

Last but not least, Thailand places great importance in partnerships in sustainable development.

The Asia-Pacific region has many successful development models and shares similar development challenges and geo-climatic conditions. We should therefore help each other to boost our strength from within which can be more cost-effective and transferable, exchange best practices through appropriate technology, and cooperate with developed countries to further our endeavour with their technology and know-how.
In this regard, Thailand stands ready to share with you our sustainable development model based on Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP), which shares ultimate common principles and objectives with SDGs in eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity and could serve as a means to support the realization of SDGs.

“The New Theory of Agriculture” on integrated farming is one of the remarkable applications of SEP that has lifted Thai farmers from protracted poverty. The application of SEP also can be found beyond agriculture. Thailand Industrial Standard 9999, for example, employs SEP principles to foster good governance and sustainability in industrial sector. Community development, agriculture, healthcare, water management, fishery and land management also benefit from development models based on SEP.

We are looking forward to establishing more cooperation with countries in the region, so together we can eradicate poverty and bring about sustainable development in this changing Asia and the Pacific.

Thank you.