

Statement
by
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Item 3 (d) Environment and Development

Proposed Thailand's Intervention

1. Thank you Mr.Chair. I would like to begin by congratulating you on your election as the Chairperson of the committee of the whole and would like to thank the Secretariat for preparing the document under this topic and for ESCAP's work.

2. Thailand welcomes the Rio+20 Outcome document that stresses the role of the regional commissions for promoting balanced integration of the three pillars of sustainable development. Thailand encourages ESCAP to continue working, in close collaboration with UNEP and relevant organizations, to assist member states in following-up and implementing the Rio+20 outcomes, particularly in

bridging the global agenda to national and local levels to ensure sustainable development in the region.

Mr. Chair,

3. Despite regional and national efforts, several major challenges to promote sustainable development in the region still remain such as lack of institutional, affordable technological and human capacity to address and integrate the three pillars of sustainability. Therefore, some important mechanisms to address these challenges should be improved. These are:

Firstly, enhancing regional and sub-regional cooperation widely such as south-south cooperation, triangular cooperation as well as new and existing initiatives;

Secondly, building capacity for governments, local authorities and major groups to meet sustainable development;

Thirdly, promoting public involvement for multi-stakeholders;

Next, establishing regional platforms for sharing knowledge, lessons learned, and experiences of best practices and;

Finally, accessing data networking and environmental friendly technology effectively.

4. Regarding priority issues to be considered by the Committee on Environment and Development at the upcoming session, Thailand would like to propose some important issues found in the region. Trans-boundary pollution is highlighted such as haze, water and hazardous waste. Other potential challenges are unpredictable disasters resulting from climate change such as drought, floods and pandemic diseases. Additionally, sustainable city management is also a major challenge due to growing urbanization in the region. In this case, green growth and sustainable consumption and production policies need to be adopted and implemented effectively. In terms of the water-energy-food nexus, Thailand believes that the nexus need to be interlinked land-use issue. The challenge which needs to be addressed is how to strike a balance among land-use, food, energy and water security.

Thank you.