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**Country Statement**

by

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Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand**

**Mr. Chairman,  
Madam Executive Secretary,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. Allow me at the outset to join my Prime Minister in warmly welcoming you to Thailand. I hope you will have a pleasant and productive stay.

2. This session of the ESCAP is particularly important. It will be the last session of the Commission before the United Nations adopts the **post-2015 development agenda**. It is, therefore, an excellent opportunity for us in the Asia-Pacific region to provide our inputs, our aspirations and needs to the process that will determine the direction of the world for the next 15 years.

3. The **Asia-Pacific** is a **region of hope and tremendous potential** – with fast growing economies, increasing market integration, and vibrant population dynamics. But at the same time, the region is **diverse**, comprising the richest and fastest-growing economies as well as some of the poorest and least-developed economies.

4. The region is also now **facing a number of challenges** – from urbanization to the impacts of climate change and more severe natural disasters, and from income inequality to irregular migration.

**Mr. Chairman,**

5. Our common task today is to ensure that the Asia-Pacific can successfully cope with all challenges and become “**a region of inclusive growth, prosperity and sustainability**.” To do so, we need to create an enabling environment where people can live free from fear, free from want, and with dignity. Balancing the three pillars of development is key to sustainable development.

6. Just last week, I shared with many of you different models of sustainable development at the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development. We all recognize that we have much to learn from one another.

7. I wish to reiterate what my Prime Minister said earlier. For Thailand, His Majesty the King's **Sufficiency Economy Philosophy** will always be our guiding principle for sustainable development. The Philosophy aims to improve people's livelihood while protecting nature and the environment.

8. Allow me to share with you a few goals that Thailand is trying to achieve.

9. A **sustainable society is a low-carbon one**. We are working to cultivate a green mindset, build more green infrastructure, and conserve green spaces. At the same time, we will invest in **water resource management** and **waste management**. To cope with climate change, we are putting in place a proper **early warning system for disaster risk reduction**.

10. We are working to **improve access to finance and services to improve people's livelihood and standard of living**.

11. To **bridge the rural-urban income gap** in a sustainable manner, we are **empowering agricultural communities** and cooperatives. They need to be encouraged to adopt profitable and environmentally-friendly farming approaches through incentives such as taxation schemes, agricultural zoning, and nano-financing loans.

12. To meet challenges from **shifting population dynamics**, we are promoting **development through the human life cycle**. We seek to ensure that all age groups from newborns, working-age, to the elderly can live their lives to the fullest potential. That is why we are striving to make our **universal health coverage** the best possible quality and accessible to all.

**Mr. Chairman,**

13. Next year, Thailand's 11th National Economic and Social Development Plan will come to an end and we are currently drafting the 12th Plan. So we will look to the Post-2015 Development Agenda as one of the main inputs for our own national plan. The outcome of this session of ESCAP therefore will feed into Thailand's domestic developmental process. Hence, I hope that together we can jointly set the right priorities for our future.

14. Thank you for your kind attention. I hope to see you all at the reception this evening at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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