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Statement on Turning Political Commitments into Action, Working Together in Partnership

By

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At the High-Level Segment
of the Fifteenth Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development

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(Please check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As a member of the Commission on Sustainable Development, Thailand believes that our concerted efforts at all levels are required to translate political commitments into actions. We realize that there is the gap between recognizing the need for action and actual implementation. We strongly hope that a meaningful resolution at the end of this CSD session will provide impetus to bridge this gap.

Mr. Chairman,

The problem of poverty in developing countries remains a challenge for development. Thailand agrees that the current themes for CSD 15 are significantly related to the poverty eradication and, that, inclusion of such theme into mainstream social and economic goals is vital to sustainable development objectives. The Royal Thai Government has adopted “His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej’s Philosophy on Sufficiency Economy” to drive our economy and to promote free and balanced market economy. While such approach stresses the need for sufficient investment and spending at all levels, it considers the importance of self-reliance and the need to install precautionary measures in social economic and environmental plans and policies, thus, achieving sustainable development.

Mr. Chairman,

On the energy part, we recognize that energy is crucial for economic development and poverty eradication. The Royal Thai Government has improved accessibility, availability and affordability of environmentally sound energy services to all segments of our society. However, the task is not an easy one. The challenge in introducing alternative energy has been slow. Thailand perceives that fossil fuels will still play a dominant role in the energy mix for enhancing economic development of all developing countries for next several years. To cope with such problem, we propose that during transition period, advanced and cleaner fossil fuel technologies are needed to pave the way to adaptation to a cleaner and more efficient energy mix. We would like to urge developed countries, which had previously experienced coal negative effects, to provide technical and financial support on advanced and cleaner fossil fuels significantly contributing to carbon dioxide emission reduction.

In terms of air pollution and atmosphere, Thailand has already played the major role in implementing related measures guided by the Montreal Protocol in phasing out CFCs and other ozone depleting substances.

Mr. Chairman,

Climate change is probably the most challenging problem affecting all of us. Much of what we said should be done has not been effectively implemented, even though, all of us agree that, UNFCCC offers an alternative solution for sustainable development among the international community. In the case of Thailand, climate change has been integrated into national agenda as described in our 10th National Economic and Social Development Plan, starting from this year to 2011, as well as the Environmental Quality Management Plan. However, there are some major obstacles. Take for example, methane emission from flooding paddy fields. As we know that rice is essential and most affordable food for peoples and economy of rice producing countries. There will be no reduction of rice production in a foreseeable future. Thailand as a major rice producing country, sees a need to provide for technology of methane emission reduction along with rice productivity to sustain availability of rice without negative effects on climate change.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me conclude by reaffirming that even though there are plenty to be done, Thailand is committed to work together with other governments and partners in order to move towards the achievement of sustainable development.

Thank you very much.