



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THAILAND
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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Statement

by

His Excellency General Surasak Karnjanarat

Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of the Kingdom of Thailand

**At the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation
of Sustainable Development Goal 14:
Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources
for sustainable development**

6 June 2017

The United Nations, New York

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On behalf of Thailand, I would like to express our appreciation to the governments of Fiji and Sweden for co-hosting this conference to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal fourteen. I believe that the outcome of this conference will greatly contribute to the global efforts to conserving and sustainably using our precious oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

Thailand attaches immense importance to implementing all Sustainable Development Goals under the twenty-third Agenda for Sustainable Development, including Goal fourteen. We have incorporated the SDGs and all related targets into our national policy frameworks such as the 20-year National Strategic Framework and the 12th National Economic and Social Development Plan. The National Committee for Sustainable Development, chaired by the Prime Minister, has also been established to oversee national efforts. Some of the key actions we have taken in the implementation of Goal fourteen are:

First, the Thai Government has launched a comprehensive fisheries reform to combat IUU fishing. We have overhauled our legal and policy frameworks governing Thai fisheries sector as well as enhancing regional and international cooperation to block the flow of IUU-caught fishes into the markets. Thailand has also acceded to the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures, which is a key international agreement in this regard, since May 2016.

Second, we have placed marine pollution and marine debris issues high on our national agenda. Pilot projects on plastic bag reduction measures, together with clean-up campaigns, have been implemented in coastal areas. Stakeholders have been engaged in a number of marine debris management initiatives. Thailand has also worked with other ASEAN members to address marine pollution and will host ASEAN Plus Three international workshop on this issue this coming October.

Third, Thailand has set a specific target on the conservation of marine protected areas. We aim to protect ten percent of coastal and marine areas, amounting to thirty-two-thousand square kilometres while a number of potential areas are to be targeted for legal proclamation in the years to come.

Ocean acidification is another aspect to be highlighted. Two monitoring sites for carbonate chemistry of seawater and biodiversity in coral reef ecosystem have been established. IOC-Westpac and Thailand jointly organized several training workshops to increase research capability of countries in the region.

Ladies and gentlemen

Oceans, along with coastal and marine resources, play an essential role in human well-being as well as social and economic development worldwide. They are particularly crucial for people living in coastal communities and small islands developing States whose livelihood subsistence and income strongly linked to the health of our oceans and seas.

In 2015, we all have committed ourselves to conserve and sustainable use ocean, seas and marine resources, including to increase economic benefits to small islands and developing States and least developed countries. Thailand strongly reiterates our commitment and has been sharing development experiences with these countries, including through the Thailand-Pacific Island Countries Forum (TPIF). This kind of cooperation is part of our commitment to leave no one behind and of our policy "SEP for SDGS Partnership" □ the policy that offers Thailand's home-grown development approach to achieve sustainable development.

We invite the global community to join with us in taking concrete steps towards the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal fourteen and to act now for the future of our next generations.

Thank you.