

**Country Statement**  
**by H.E. Mr. Vijavat Isarabhakdi**  
**Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand**  
**at the 2021 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development**  
**via Pre-Recorded Video**  
**(4 minutes)**

**Your Excellency Mr. Munir Akram, President of the ECOSOC,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. We meet once again at the High-level Political Forum amidst the greatest humanitarian crisis in generations.
2. The COVID-19 pandemic has slowed down our progress on the 2030 Agenda. We must therefore reignite our efforts towards sustainable development within the lens of the “New Normal”.
3. Thailand’s endeavours to advance the 2030 Agenda are supported by an effective institutional foundation centred upon the integration of the SDGs within the Government’s 20-year National Strategy. Policy guidance is provided by our National Committee on Sustainable Development and Thailand’s SDGs Roadmap. Our progress towards SDGs achievement and a sustainable recovery from COVID-19 have already been highlighted in Thailand’s ambitious VNR this year.
4. But the value of fora such as the HLPF is to help all of us think together to find the required transformative change for achieving the 2030 Agenda. Accordingly, I wish to share with you briefly Thailand’s vision on **three key drivers** for transformation.
5. **First**, transformative change cannot come about without a paradigm shift. In the post-COVID era, it is imperative for us to move towards more balanced growth that also safeguards our planet.
6. Thailand’s Sufficiency Economy Philosophy, or SEP, represents a principled yet pragmatic pursuit of the balance between humans and nature. It seeks to create resilience at all levels through the application of technology as well as local wisdom and knowledge. Thailand is convinced that we must transform together. And we are committed to sharing our good practices with all, including at the Global South-South Development Expo which we will host this November.

7. With the SEP as the guiding light, Thailand has adopted the Bio-Circular-Green Economy Model that responds to our most urgent priorities. The BCG Economy promotes the balance of all things through the three intertwined models to bring about inclusive economic growth, while boosting environmental revival and SDGs attainment. We look forward to working with all countries on the BCG Economy as APEC Chair next year.
8. **Second**, while COVID-19 has forced us to physically distance ourselves from one another, technology has the potential to bring us closer together than ever before. We have witnessed the role of Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) in offering solutions to the complex challenges of managing this pandemic. And the role of STI will undoubtedly be further enhanced in the years to come. For this reason, the digital gap must be addressed to ensure that everyone is able to benefit from STI and no one is left behind.
9. **Third**, COVID-19 has shown us how we have forgotten how truly interconnected we are. We must therefore re-engage partnerships at all levels so that, together, we can move forward as societies. Thailand aims to make the spirit of partnership concrete by leveraging the expertise and energy of all sectors, be they the private sector, civil society, volunteers, academia, or individuals in our march towards the SDGs. This year's VNR preparation process has certainly provided us with yet another opportunity to engage with various sectors on making the virtual tangible in progressing sustainable development and the SDGs.
10. The post-COVID era promises to be even more disruptive than ever. Hence, we must work together to ensure a creative disruption so that our recovery is sustainable, resilient, and inclusive, and that our growth is more balanced, capable of addressing new inequalities and any challenges that may emerge.

I thank you.