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Statement by Delegation of Thailand
At the Official Segment of the
12th Session of Commission on Sustainable Development
21 April 2004

Mr. Chairman,

First of all, I wish to congratulate you and the other members of the Bureau on your elections. I am confident that with your able leadership you will guide our deliberation towards a successful conclusion.

I also wish to associate my delegation with the statement made earlier by the distinguished Permanent Representative of Qatar on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. Chairman,

The Thai Government has always attached importance to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, with particular emphasis on the promotion of good governance, decentralization, public sector reform and corporate governance.

Poverty eradication, a key element in attaining sustainable development, is a top priority for the Thai government. It has pursued pro-poor policies attempting to reduce the cost of living, increase income, create jobs and expand opportunities for the poor. At the same time, the government has introduced innovative measures to improve the provision of public services such as greater access to health care, education and housing.

As regards to sustainable production and consumption patterns, the Thai government has been promoting, among others, the use of clean technology and energy efficiency in the industrial sector, voluntary eco-labeling scheme and public awareness campaigns.

The Thai Government adopted the Integrated Water Resource Management concept in 1997 and commenced its implementation shortly

thereafter. Many initiatives and programmes developed for water resource management are now in satisfactory stage of development.

On the protection of the atmosphere, Thailand has successfully implemented the National CFC Phase-out Program. Attempts have also been made to reduce greenhouse gases through campaigns to reduce power consumption and increase carbon sinks.

Environmental management in urban and industrial areas is also a priority of the Thai government. The government is encouraging local government to develop guidelines for managing livable cities, towns and communities.

Thailand is actively involved in sub-regional and regional initiatives including those under ASEAN. Thailand is fully supportive of the Mekong River Commission in its management of transboundary water resources so as to promote equitable and sustainable use of the Mekong River among countries in the subregion.

Mr. Chairman,

Although Thailand has made some progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the JPOI, we are still faced with a number of difficulties. This includes lack of capacity and resources at the local level in the decentralization of sustainable development, lack of resources in law enforcement and the lack of sufficient funding for certain sustainable development projects such as the establishment of waste water treatment plants in urban areas. Despite these obstacles, we are determined to continue our efforts in order to achieve those goals and targets in Agenda 21 and the JPOI as well as those contained in the Millennium Declaration.

Thank you.