

(Draft)  
**Statement**  
by  
**Dr. Suriya Chindawongse**  
**Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations**  
**at the 55<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Population and Development**  
**26 April 2022, 15.00-18.00 hrs. UNHQ**  
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**Mr. Chair,**

1. Thailand wishes to congratulate you and other members of the Bureau on your election. My delegation is confident that the 55<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission of Population and Development will be successful under your leadership.

2. Thailand sees population development as interlinked with three important processes: (1) sustained and inclusive economic growth, (2) efforts to build back better and greener, particularly in light of COVID-19 pandemic, and (3) policies to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

3. This inter-linkage is based on Thailand's long-standing belief in the centrality and urgency of pursuing a **human-centered approach to development** -- one that promotes a **balanced, sustained and inclusive economic growth that not only enhances human security but also protects our planet.**

4. In recent years, Thailand's demographic challenges have added complexity to its efforts of pursuing sustainable development that is people-centred. It is estimated that, by 2037, Thailand will be a "**fully aged society**" with almost 30 percent of its population aged 60 years and over. At the same time, we have a sizeable youth population that continues to enter the labour force.

5. This dual challenge has made it more important than ever to ensure that, as part of Thailand's sustainable development strategy, we continue to, amongst other things, maintain a productive workforce, enhance social protection for all, and ensure the population's well-being regardless of where one is in the age continuum.

6. These goals are being integrated into and supported by the following three major initiatives and plans:

7. First is the **Bio-Circular-Green or BCG Economy Model** which aims to achieve sustained growth while ensuring environmental conservation. To boost growth and promote decent work for all, the BCG Economy Model seeks to promote sustainable production using high technology in catalytic industries such as food and agriculture; medical and wellness; bioenergy, biomaterials and biochemical; and tourism and creative economy, for example.

8. We believe that the BCG Economy Model will contribute to better livelihoods and well-being for people as well as enhance protection of our planet. Indeed, the BCG Model is being shared at the regional level: first within ASEAN since 2020, and now within the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) for which Thailand is the Host Economy this year.

9. Second is Thailand's **13<sup>th</sup> National Economic and Social Development Plan 2023 - 2027** to be launched in October this year. The plan highlights human resource development across the lifespan of a person, from childhood to retirement, to ensure that all persons are well-equipped to contribute to and benefit from sustained economic growth and prosperity.

10. Life-long learning and decent social protection for all are indispensable to keeping our societies productive and active and to ensuring that no one is left behind in the pursuit of sustainable development.

11. That is why Thailand supports the idea of providing social protection for all as suggested in the Secretary-General's Our Common Agenda, building on promoting Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

12. Third is Thailand's **Third Human Development Plan 2022 - 2027** to strengthen demographic structure management and promote quality human development throughout a person's life in collaboration with all sectors nationwide.

13. In particular, the plan will focus on capacity-building at the local level. This will help ensure human development beginning at the grassroots level as well as a more empowered population. Our aim is to generate a development process that remains inclusive.

14. In closing, Thailand reiterates its determination to work with the international community and stakeholders to **further advance human security and population development**, including through the **implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action**.

15. Our ultimate goal remains unchanged: and that is the pursuit of sustained and inclusive economic growth and sustainable development where all have a part to play, and no one is left behind.

16. Thank you.

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