

Statement
By Her Excellency Mrs. Phantipha Iamsudha Ekarohit,
Deputy Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Thailand
at the Ministerial Meeting on South-South Cooperation
“Renewed Partnerships for Actionable Solutions in Support of Implementation
of the Doha Programme of Action”
7 March 2023 at 9.00-12.00 hrs.
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Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates,

Representatives from civil society,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Government of Qatar for hosting this timely meeting. It provides a valuable opportunity to renew our commitments to South-South Cooperation in order to advance the Doha Programme of Action for the LDCs for 2021-2031.

For Thailand, South-South Cooperation is an integral part of our development cooperation policy. Since we last met in Istanbul in 2011, Thailand’s development cooperation has been expanding and deepening. We have proudly transitioned from a relatively inexperienced development partner to a partner who understands the changing landscape of development cooperation.

COVID-19 has taught us that we need to prioritize and readjust to the evolving reality. Therefore, we have refocused our development policy to ensure **human security in four aspects: food, health, employment, and energy & environment**. We have also enthusiastically embraced “**Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) Economy Model**” to complement the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy, our homegrown development approach, to strengthening our contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have also learned from our experience that strong global partnership is key to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Let me highlight three important aspects which I think are crucial for effective South-South Cooperation.

First, it must be **demand-driven**. We must understand each country's priorities and specific challenges so that proper solutions can be tailored to meet its pressing needs.

Second, it must ensure **inclusivity and ownership**, whereby all stakeholders are included in the design and implementation of initiatives. This requires active listening and meaningful engagement with all stakeholders through sustained dialogue. This is to ensure the integration of development programs into national cooperation policy frameworks and activities.

Third, in addition to local wisdom, we must embrace **digital technology** to help recover our lost ground during the global pandemic and accelerate progress towards the SDGs by 2030. To unleash the power of technology and innovation in development, the private sector's active participation is required. For the Global South to digitally leapfrog, it is essential to enhance **science, technology and innovation** cooperation and **technology transfer** to the LDCs.

While we have yet to fully recover from the lingering effects of COVID-19, the world is now undergoing key transitions on geopolitical, economic, energy and environmental fronts. To navigate through these challenging times, we require more effective partnership to keep the Global South on track towards the SDGs by 2030.

South-South Cooperation has proven effective in promoting development. But **triangular cooperation** continues to play an important role in providing access to additional resources and technology, as well as knowledge transfer and technical assistance. Therefore, Thailand has worked closely with our development partners from the Global North such as Japan, Germany, France and the US as well as various UN agencies to realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Vibrant networks among development partners are essential for sharing knowledge, expertise and best practices. New partners, in particular, can benefit from mutual learning, improved coordination, and more effective development cooperation. In September last year, Thailand had the opportunity to co-host the 11th **Global South-South Development (GSSD) Expo** with UNESCAP and UNOSSC. It brought together more than 5,000 participants from around the world to discuss and share thoughts and ideas on South-South and triangular Cooperation.

Thailand remains committed to working closely in partnership with our development partners from both the Global South and the Global North to achieve the shared goal of sustainable and inclusive development for all. By working in strong partnerships, we can build a better planet for us all and future generations to come.

Thank you.

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