

Thailand's Statement
delivered by
H.E. Ms. Morakot Sriswasdi
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand
at the 48th Session of the UNIDO Industrial Development Board
24 November 2020

Agenda Item 12: UNIDO activities in the environment and energy

Mr. President,

1. Climate change and other environmental problems are the most pressing issues facing mankind with grave implications of setting back significant world progress in all dimensions. Global action is required if we are to mitigate and address this looming crisis in a more efficient manner. Shifting the industry and energy sectors into a more sustainable and environmentally friendly model while retaining their economic viability is one of our most challenging mission.

2. In this connection, the Thai Delegation is pleased to note UNIDO's continued efforts in the past year to integrate and scale up its activities related to the environment and energy, in line with its strategic priority of safeguarding the environment of the medium-term programme framework 2018–2021. We remain convinced that, through the delivery of its core functions like technical cooperation and policy advisory services, UNIDO can greatly contribute to the advancement of environmentally sustainable industrial development.

3. The Thai Government has been working in the same direction to develop our economic and industry sectors under our Bio-Circular-Green Economy Model, or BCG. The model emphasizes the increasing use of renewable biological resources, reducing waste in the product life cycle, thereby keeping both economic and environmental considerations in balance, in accordance with the Green Economy concept. To this end, we highly appreciate supports from UNIDO as our close partner.

Mr. President,

4. Let me share some of Thailand's recent cooperation with UNIDO in this field to highlight the Organization's activities which could serve as a model for future projects and programmes with interested Member States.

5. First, as mentioned in the report, we recently launched a 5-year project to apply an industry-urban symbiosis approach in Thailand's industry sector, aiming to reduce the emission of greenhouse gas as well as the release of persistent organic pollutants and other harmful chemicals from industries and urban areas. The project, which was developed in collaboration with UNIDO, secured 8.9 million USD funding from the

Global Environment Facility (GEF) Trust Fund, the largest amount we have ever received from the GEF. Further 120 million USD funding for the project has been mobilized from the government's budget and private sectors.

6. Second, Thailand is also implementing other ongoing projects with UNIDO in the promotion of circular economy practices in various fields, for example low-emission transportation, green scrap metal value chains, and low-carbon production for SMEs.

8. Finally, Thailand has recently joined The Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) as a partner country, with assistance from UNIDO during the application process. This will enable us to access to additional supports and resources for our transition to inclusive green economy from the five UN agencies in PAGE, namely UNEP, ILO, UNDP, UNIDO, and UNITAR.

Mr. President,

9. Let me conclude by taking this opportunity to thank donor countries for their generosity and commitment to support global transition to green industry and economy. It would be our pleasure to contribute to these efforts by sharing with interested countries our experiences and lessons learned from the many projects we have implemented and been implementing.

I thank you.

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