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**Thailand's Statement
delivered by
H.E. Ms. Morakot Sriswasdi
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
at the 49th Session of the UNIDO Industrial Development Board
13 July 2021**

Agenda Item 3: Annual Report of the Director General for 2020

Madam President,

1. Allow me to congratulate you on your election as the President of the 49th Session of the Industrial Development Board. My congratulations also go to all members of the Bureau. May I take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the former President, Ambassador Darmansjah Djumala of Indonesia, for his leadership and guidance throughout the 48th session.
2. My delegation aligns itself with the statement of the Group of 77 and China, delivered by H.E. Ambassador Alejandro Solano Ortiz of Costa Rica and wishes to add the following remarks in our national capacity.
3. At the outset, Thailand wishes to thank the Director General and the Secretariat for preparing the Annual Report for 2020, contained in document IDB.49/2. The Report highlights the Organisation's commitment and effort to promote inclusive and sustainable industrial development as well as to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
4. The COVID-19 pandemic has devastating impacts on socio-economic development. Thailand appreciates UNIDO's hard work and continued effort for service delivery by providing technical cooperation implementation during this difficult time. While the giant leap of digitalization presented us with unique challenges of development inequality and digital divide, we realise that new opportunities to address these common challenges through international cooperation are also emerged. Such cooperation could mitigate pandemic impacts and development gap with policies that focus on sustainable economic growth in response to diversified needs of the Member States.

5. Thailand views that the Annual Report for 2020 reflects UNIDO's continued implementation of its mandates in accordance with the four strategic priorities of the medium-term programme framework (MTPF) for 2018 – 2021. The direction and implementation of MTPF encompass elements of all strategic priorities that are crucial for a country to achieve its development goals and recovery targets in a sustainable manner. These strategic priorities could be the basis for designing cooperation projects for post-covid recovery and for addressing the digitalisation gap.

6. UNIDO's role as a platform for partnership is commendable in bringing together donor-recipient countries, the public-private sectors, financial institutions and technology actors in the field of industrial development. In Asia and the Pacific region, for instance, UNIDO helps coordinating the middle-income countries and emerging donors, synergising and mobilising resources for industrial development and provision of South-South cooperation and knowledge transfer.

Madam President,

7. The report made reference to the successful implementation of the UNIDO Global Cleantech Innovation Programme in Thailand, under the cooperation of Thailand's Ministry of Industry and UNIDO which was funded by Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (GEF), as one of the achievements through UNIDO's platform of partnership. Through product invention competition, trainings of government agencies, as well as transfer of knowledge and support from the international network, the programme had successfully run accelerators and built capacity of 74 entrepreneurs and 173 mentors from 2016 to 2020. This success has led to the formation of entrepreneurship ecosystems that allows Thai SMEs to develop and commercialize their idea, contributing to the country's sustainable green growth and energy security for post-COVID recovery. The result of this programme will be further integrated to the existing clean technology and innovation initiative of Thailand's Ministry of Industry. In this regard, Thailand highly appreciates the excellent cooperation and support extended by UNIDO and GEF.

8. As current Thailand and UNIDO's cooperation projects mainly focus on safeguarding the environment, Thailand is looking forward to expanding its cooperation with UNIDO to cover all four strategic priorities of the Medium-Term Programme Framework, taking into account our diversified needs and interest and the challenges posed by global disruption.

9. Finally, Thailand reaffirms its commitment to collaborate with UNIDO and to support UNIDO as a platform for partnership to accelerate the progress towards achievement of the inclusive and sustainable industrial development and the SDGs.

I thank you.
