

## THAILAND

Statement by H.E. Mr. Uttama SAVANAYANA  
Minister of Industry of Thailand  
at the 17<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNIDO General  
Conference  
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Vienna International Centre, Austria

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**Madam President Ms. Christine Stix-Hackl,**  
Distinguished Heads of State and  
Government,  
Mr. Li Yong Director General,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Representatives,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to congratulate **Your Excellency Ms. Christine Stix-Hackl** on your election as the President of the 17<sup>th</sup> Session of UNIDO General Conference, along with other members of the Bureau. I would also like to thank the Director General and the Secretariat for their efforts in preparing the Conference.

Moreover, the Thai delegations would like to congratulate DG Li Yong for your re-election as the Director General of UNIDO for

**the second term. Under your strong leadership, UNIDO has made commendable efforts in promoting the ISID and SDG 9.**

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**Today, Thailand is embarking upon a new journey of National Development. Thailand has a clear vision of where we want to go over the next 10 years and how we intend to get there. This is spelled out in our National Development Plan.**

**Central to the plan and our commitment are three goals; namely, stability prosperity, and sustainability. We were all aware that these goals are very challenging in this era of ultra-rapid change and disruption. But importantly, we are convinced that the plan and its core goals offer new opportunities for dynamic collaboration towards the SDGs and also SDG 9.**

**Allow me to briefly elaborate. To put things into action on this journey, we have developed the so called Thailand 4.0 as the new roadmap under National Development Plan to guide Thailand's transformation to become the valued-based, innovation-driven economy.**

**There are a number of inter-related strategic thrusts in Thailand 4.0. The key ones especially related to industrial transformation include:**

**1. The development of target industries and clusters of a new core competencies and technology.**

**2. Integrated human capital development to support the Industry 4.0 transformation. A main goal is to promote specialized education especially through closer linkages between the industries and educational institutions to support innovation and create win-win results for stakeholders.**

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**Furthermore, we extensively foster the entrepreneurial activities for the SMEs and Start-ups as they are a most productive source of creativity and innovation for a value-based economy.**

**3. Underpinning other strategic thrusts is the largest investment in Thailand's history to upgrade the country's infrastructure. Under construction are extensive networks of mass transit, new high speed and dual-tracks train lines with intraregional connectivity as well as multiple expansions of sea ports and airports.**

In addition, a significantly expanded high-speed internet network to virtually the whole Thailand is expected to be completed next year.

Madame President,

All of this, of course, requires the active participation of the private sector, and the Thai government high impact public-private collaboration based on the PPP approach to drive key 4.0 transformation initiatives principles of inclusiveness, engagement and cooperation between the government, the private sector and **the public**. Importantly, the PPP initiatives also seek to actively engage our international friends and partners.

To this end, DG Li Yong had very productive meetings with myself and other Thai senior government officials in September this year in Bangkok. As a result, Thailand and UNIDO have jointly developed a new Strategic Cooperation Framework for 2018-2021. The Framework consists of

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collaboration in areas that promote UNIDO's mandates as well as Thailand 4.0 transformation. Examples include the

development of new core technology and industries; the factory 4.0; the SMEs capability building; the Big Data Platform; including an establishment of an Investment and Technology Promotion Office (ITPO) in Thailand. Most important of all the scope of the collaboration has been designed to reach out beyond Thailand to our neighbors and friends in the region and Asia-Pacific. With Thailand recently becoming a home to UNIDO's Regional Office hub, the Thailand-UNIDO Strategic Cooperation Framework will further enhance UNIDO's presence in Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific, while contributing to the overall sustainable industrial development.

Madame President,

In closing, I wish to reaffirm our support to UNIDO in promoting ISID and the SDGs implementation. Thailand stands ready to work closely with UNIDO and fellow member states. After all, it is a world increasingly shaped by connectivity and collaboration that we live in today. And as such, win-win opportunities can be leverage to create shared, sustainable benefits.

I Thank you Madame President.

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