

Country Statement by  
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Advisor to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand  
At the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Dialogue: From the Millennium Development Goals to the  
United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015  
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Mr. Chairman,  
Madame Executive Secretary,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. It is a great pleasure for me to deliver Thailand's country statement **on behalf of His Excellency Mr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand at the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Dialogue: From the Millennium Development Goals to the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015, the first regional Ministerial-level event to discuss the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 following the release of the Report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

2. My thought turns first towards what Her Royal Highness Princess Chulabhorn of Thailand stated at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in June last year: **"We have the responsibility to leave a sustainable, resilient, inclusive and equitable legacy for current and future generations."**

3. The **Millennium Development Goals** (MDGs), which have been the most successful global anti-poverty push in history, are set to be achieved in 2015. **Thailand has met almost all of the MDGs targets**, and even voluntarily commit ourselves to more ambitious targets called **"the MDGs plus"** in the areas of poverty eradication, education, health, gender equality and environment. However, the **MDGs remain "unfinished business"** for many countries. Therefore, **a final push** is needed to achieve the unmet goals.

4. Now is also the time to step up our efforts to shape "the future we want" in order to secure a sustainable future for all. "Sustainability" has always been the vision guiding

Thailand's development aspiration. Thailand believes that development can only be accomplished with human resources. The heart of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej's Philosophy of "**Sufficiency Economy**", which has been at the core of our national development principle for decades, is "**human development**".

5. The future can be both **opportunities and challenges**. The **common challenges** faced by Asia-Pacific are increasing **inequality** in society, frequent large-scale **natural disasters** that can wipe out our hard-won development gains overnight, and threats from various **diseases**.

6. In our view, the new development agenda must help promote equality in the society. The economy should be restructured toward **inclusive growth** which allows for equitable distribution of wealth and enables the region to maintain its resilience from external shocks and sustained growth. Thailand sees a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication as the way forward to address inequality.

7. As Asia-Pacific is the most disaster prone region, the new development agenda needs to enhance investment in **disaster risk reduction and preparedness** in order to reduce vulnerabilities and minimize the loss of lives and the economic impacts.

8. Health is a strong component of the human development, it cannot be left behind after 2015. In addition to HIV/AIDS, malaria and Tuberculosis, the world has faced with non-communicable diseases as well as new and emerging diseases. Investing in the universal access to health services has positive impacts towards poverty eradication and social equality. We therefore wish to include **universal health coverage** in the post -2015 development agenda.

9. As member of the **Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals**, Thailand will continue to work closely with other members to formulate a single set of goals that are universally applicable to all countries but adaptable to different national realities and priorities. To be able to cope with the new challenges, new development framework should incorporated the following: **universal health coverage, disaster risk reduction and preparedness, promotion of inclusive development and ensuring effective rule of law**.

10. However, our visions cannot be translated into actions without the means of implementation. In this regard, Thailand fully supports the recommendation reflected in the milestone Report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda on the shift toward a **new global partnership involving all stakeholders**. Thailand believes that **science, technology and innovation (STI) and information and communication**

**technologies (ICTs)** are an essential component of the means of implementation. Moreover, it will be impossible to achieve sustainability, without **peace, effective rule of law, open and accountable institutions**.

11. Finally, with our strong record of continue contributions to the UN, Thailand can serve as an effective **bridge of partnership**. We pledge to work with all members of the UN to promote peace, development, and human rights.

Thank you

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