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Statement of Thailand
by
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during the Agenda 6: Progress to date in the implementation of the
outcomes of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlement
(Habitat II) and the New Urban Agenda

Madame Chair,
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

1. It is an honour and pleasure for Thailand to participate at the second session of the Preparatory Committee of the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (HABITAT III). Allow me to convey a sincere warm greeting from the Royal Thai Government and people of Thailand to all delegates. We sincerely appreciate your excellent work and wish to commend you and your wisdom and guidance during this preparatory process.

2. Almost 20 years later after the adoption of the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements in 1996, we are approaching the target year for MDGs and are actively preparing for an even more ambitious post – 2015 Development Agenda. **Human settlement and sustainable urban development remain a critical component of today's and tomorrow's development agenda,** particularly the proposed SDG Goal 11: to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Madame Chair,

3. Thailand firmly believes that **sustainable urban development is essential to alleviate poverty and inequality.** It is also essential for the

achievement of our country's vision in 2027 towards “**Stability, Prosperity and Sustainability**” guided by His Majesty's Sufficiency Economy Philosophy.

4. To make our country's vision and the Habitat Agenda a reality, Thailand attaches great importance to the development of better **urban ecology and environment, more equity and inclusive cities, and urban-rural linkages.**

5. First, **balancing the urban economic development and environmental sustainability** is key to improving living standard of all urban inhabitants. The 11th National Economic and Social Development Plan and the 20-year Development Plan for Bangkok Metropolis (2013 – 2032) aims to achieve safe, green and more liveable city for all. Moreover, we adopted the **low-carbon city strategy** at municipal and national levels to reduce the emission of CO₂ as well as incorporated **efficient energy-use policy, eco-friendly technologies, green infrastructure and buildings** into urban planning to ensure greener urban ecology and cities.

6. Moreover, as countries are experiencing increase impact of climate change including extreme weather events, Thailand has put greater emphasis **on disaster risk reduction, water and flood management at city level** to enhance city resilience towards climate change adaptation.

7. Second, **enhanced public transport connectivity** is one of the crucial elements to overcome unequal access to economic opportunity and basic social services of the urban poor. Thailand is now developing the transportation network **connecting land, water and railway transit system.** We are also working on having a bicycle-friendly cities, even in a large metropolis like Bangkok.

8. Third, **increasing urban-rural linkage** is critical to reduce inequality, increase employment and healthy urban-rural migration. Thailand has developed transport infrastructure linking major cities to other peripheral provinces to ensure the efficient economic growth across urban-rural areas. To this end, we

are working towards transforming bordering provinces into **logistical hub** and full-fledged **special economic zones** to enhance job creation and economic growth.

Madame Chair,

9. Looking ahead to the post - 2015 Development agenda, Thailand firmly believes that **people should be placed at the center of sustainable urban development**. There is no question that enhanced cooperation and partnership through south-south and north-south cooperation is of utmost important to realize the for **capacity building and human investment**. We are confident that through our collective SDGs' vision, our effort will lead to safer human settlements, better standard of living and sustainable urbanization for all.

Thank you.
