

**Statement by
H.E. Ms. Morakot Sriswasdi
Permanent Representative of Thailand to UNIDO
Head of the Delegation of Thailand
at the 19th Session of UNIDO General Conference
1 December 2021**

Mr. President, (H.E. Ambassador Mohamed Mezghani, Permanent Representative of Tunisia)

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

1. I wish to express my sincere congratulations to you, Mr. President, and to all members of the bureau on their elections. You can rest assured of my Delegation's full support and cooperation. I also wish to thank the outgoing President, H.E. Ambassador Hamad Alkaabi of UAE, for his dedication and hard work, the Director General, Mr. Li Yong, and the Secretariat for their hard works throughout this trying time.

2. I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate and welcome Dr. Gerd Müller on his appointment as the new Director General of UNIDO. I wish him every success in discharging his responsibilities. Thailand looks forward to continuing our close and constructive cooperation and partnership with UNIDO under his leadership.

Mr. President,

3. My Delegation associates itself with the statement delivered by the Ambassador of Costa Rica on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and wishes to add the following remarks in our national capacity.

4. As we mark the 55th Anniversary of UNIDO, Thailand reaffirms its full support to UNIDO in the execution of its mandate on inclusive and sustainable industrial development which has become ever more relevant in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, with its devastating and disproportionate socio-economic consequences. We hope that gender-responsive recovery measures will be integrated into UNIDO's strategy for building a better future. UNIDO's

contribution to the joint response of the United Nations system to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic, especially in least-developed and middle-income countries, are much appreciated.

5. Thailand welcomes the launch of the Industrial Development Report 2022 under the theme “The future of industrialization in a post-pandemic world” We hope that its valuable findings would pave way for future collaborations in support of sustainable development of industrial capabilities to help us build back better from the COVID-19 crisis and other persisting global challenges such as climate change, environment degradation. These challenges, together with the great leap of digitalisation, require international cooperation to promote the frontier technologies of the 4th Industrial Revolution to alleviate their impacts, narrow development gap, as well as create a more inclusive, sustainable and resilient future.

Mr. President,

6. In line with global imperative to support inclusive and sustainable post-pandemic recovery, Thailand has adopted the Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) Economic Model as a National Agenda to promote more inclusive and sustainable growth. The BCG Economic Model Strategic Plan (2021 – 2026) aims to promote sustainable usage of biological resources, empower local communities and their economy, promote target industries for sustainable competitiveness, and enhance resilience to the global changes. In this regard, we look forward to enhancing cooperation with UNIDO, especially in the area of circular economy, environment and energy.

7. At the COP26, Thailand affirmed its commitment to address challenges of climate change, pledging to reach carbon neutrality in 2050 and Net Zero Emissions before 2065. With support from UNIDO and relevant partners, such as the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (GEF) and the Partnership for Actions on Green Economy (PAGE), on the technical assistance, capacity building, and financing for inclusive green economy transition, Thailand will be able to ensure an early achievement of these ambitious goals.

Mr. President,

8. Thailand has been working closely with UNIDO on a number of projects under the Strategic Cooperation Framework for 2018 – 2021, such as the industry 4.0 development in Thailand’s Eastern Economic Corridor or EEC and the Green

Recovery Initiatives in partnership with PAGE. Such cooperation helps advance Thailand's economy on the path of inclusive and sustainable industrial development and generate a wealth of knowledge and best practices that benefit the Southeast Asian region. As our Strategic Cooperation Framework will be concluded this year, we wish to express our interest to extend the Framework and to continue our existing projects in line with UNIDO Strategic Framework for Partnering with middle-income countries (MICs) as well as other innovative means of cooperation among MICs.

Mr. President,

9. On a final note, Thailand strongly encourages UNIDO to maximise the utilisation of field office representatives in strengthening its engagement with the United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) and actively explore further collaboration and partnership with international donors and financial institutions to assist Member States in consistent with UNIDO's mandates.

10. I wish to reaffirm Thailand's commitment to work closely with UNIDO and other Member States in advancing inclusive and sustainable industrial development for a more inclusive, sustainable and resilient future.

I thank you Mr. President.
