

THAILAND

**Statement by Dr. Somchai Harnhirun
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at the 15th Session of the UNIDO General Conference
2 – 6 December 2013, Lima, Peru**

Madam President (H.E. Ms. Gladys Triveño, Minister of Production of Peru),
Mr. Director General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Representatives,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Thai delegation, I would like to join previous speakers in congratulating Your Excellency Ms. Gladys Triveño on your election as the President of the 15th Session of UNIDO General Conference, along with other members of the Bureau.

Thailand, as a former host country of the 2nd General Conference in 1987 that took place in Bangkok, would like to express our deep appreciation to the Government of Peru for hosting this General Conference once again out of the Headquarters. In this connection, I appreciate and value the work of the Government of Peru in preparing this great event and in greeting us with such a warm welcome. I wish also to extend our gratitude to the Secretariat for its hard work during the preparation of this Conference.

I would also like to take this opportunity to reaffirm Mr. Li Yong, the Director General of UNIDO, of Thailand's full support and cooperation to the organization. As a member state, Thailand looks forward to UNIDO's greater success and achievements in promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development worldwide under your capable leadership.

Madam President,

This session of UNIDO's General Conference came at the right place and the right time. Why at the right place ? Because we are here at Lima today to reaffirm our conviction that industrialization is an essential driver for inclusive and sustainable development, as we did here in 1975. Why at the right time ? Because industrial development today has been recognized as one of the key contributions to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and

without a doubt I do believe that it will remain as a key factor for the post-2015 development agenda.

Certainly, much progress in development has been achieved in many countries since 1975. We have a better quality of life than what we had 38 years ago, but at the same time we must accept that we still cannot overcome the problems of poverty and social inequality. Moreover, in this globalized world we are faced with various complex challenges such as climate change, environmental degradation, pandemics, and economic crises. Whether or not we believe in the butterfly effect, it is unarguable that a problem in one area can affect several around the world. Therefore, we must jointly work to address these common challenges and all key stakeholders must be involved.

Thailand fully endorse the Lima Declaration, which came about through the joint efforts of all Member States. We are also confident that UNIDO will continue to assist its Member States in achieving enhanced levels of inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

At this point, Thailand would like to extend its appreciation to Ambassador Antonio García- Revilla, Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations in Vienna, and President of the 41st Industrial Development Board, for his role during the consultations and negotiations on the Lima Declaration.

Madam President,

In the past two decades, Thailand has experienced many challenges to our country's development, namely, the regional financial crisis in 1997, the bird flu epidemic in 2003, the Tsunami disaster in 2004, and one of the worst floods in our history in 2011.

The 2008 world economic crisis has led to adjustments in rules and regulations regarding trade, investment, finance, and environmental and social matters. To enhance their competitiveness, Thai entrepreneurs have to improve their production processes and business practices together with the incorporation of corporate social responsibility (CSR) and fair competition. In addition, economic cooperation initiatives such as the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in 2015 have affected various aspects of our economic, industrial and social development, not least the development of human resources. We strongly believe that we can count upon the expertise of UNIDO in the fields of technical cooperation, action-oriented research and policy advisory services, and standards and compliance to assist us in these matters.

Regarding the three pillars of sustainable development - economic development, social development and environmental protection - Thailand does believe that the moderation approach, which lies in the Sufficiency Economy philosophy introduced by His Majesty the King of Thailand, is the key to sustainability. The philosophy provides us with guidance that economic development and environmental conservation must be well balanced, so that the country is resilient and protected from both external and internal shocks.

At present, our development strategy has shifted from being growth-oriented to a more holistic people-oriented development approach where creativity and knowledge are used as drivers of growth. Besides our strategy on growth and competitiveness, we do believe that promotion of inclusive and green growth will lead the country to sustainable development so that we and our children have, and will continue to have, everything that we need for survival and well-being.

Thailand, therefore, trust in UNIDO's important role in assisting our country, as well as other member states, to achieve inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

Madam President,

Regarding the third thematic priority of UNIDO, sustainable production and industrial resource efficiency, Thailand supports UNIDO for its increasing emphasis on green industry and the use of and access to sustainable energy. We appreciate UNIDO and the Government of the People's Republic of China in organizing the Green Industry Conference 2013 on 7 to 9 November in Guangzhou, where best practices and best policy strategies for the application of green industry were shared.

It has been three years since the Green Industry Scheme was launched in Thailand by the Ministry of Industry. To date, the program has gained increasing attention from the industrial community as well as the involvement of local residents.

Another effort in achieving the goal of our country's development strategy in inclusive growth and green growth is the development of eco-industrial towns. Again, we thank UNIDO for inviting us to be a part of the International Conference on the Future of Cities which was organized jointly by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, UNIDO, and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), on 20 October 2013 in Kitakyushu, Japan.

At the Conference, Map Ta Phut Industrial Estate of Thailand was invited to participate and share our experience in developing the eco-industrial town, with other leading eco-city initiatives in South East Asia - Cebu City, the Philippines; Iskandar, Malaysia; Da Nang, Vietnam; Pingtan Comprehensive Pilot Zone, Fujian Province, China; and Singapore.

Both the Green Industry Scheme and the eco-industrial town project are good examples for showing that, if we do it right, industrialization can be a key driver for inclusive and sustainable development that can significantly contribute to poverty eradication. Industrialization creates decent productive employment, generates income and facilitates social integration, and definitely plays a key role in maintaining social stability and cohesion.

Madam President,

I would like to take this opportunity to stress the significant impact of climate change on all of us. In just three weeks ago, Typhoon Haiyan, one of the strongest typhoons on record, devastated the central Philippines. In this connection, I would like to re-emphasize that UNIDO can play active role in providing immediate assistance to Member States in need of recovery, specifically of their industrial sectors, when they are hit by natural disasters, such as was the case in the aftermath of Thailand's floods in 2011.

Madam President,

To conclude, Thailand firmly supports UNIDO's continued constructive role in promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development. We are convinced that UNIDO will continue to effectively adapt to changing realities and new challenges. We also believe that it is crucial that Member States and other stakeholders are engaged in determining UNIDO's future role and activities. Thailand, as always, stands ready to work further closely with UNIDO and fellow Member States in advancing UNIDO's agenda for the benefit of all.

Thank you, Madam President.
