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ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD)**

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**CSTD 2022-2023 priority theme on “Technology and innovation for cleaner and more
productive and competitive production”**

Statement submitted by

Thailand

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Intervention from the Delegation of Thailand
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It is my pleasure to attend the Inter-sessional Panel meeting in-person and give an intervention on behalf of the Government of Thailand.

First of all, I would like to convey our sincere appreciation to the Secretariat for the preparation of the draft issues paper and the panelists for very informative presentation. We appreciate the inclusion of Thailand's initiatives in this report, for instance, a network of cooperation on the biomass industry to encourage factories to invest in biogas production, our work on textile value chain towards circularity and also the benchmarking of energy and greenhouse gas intensity in the metal industry.

Why should industry go green and why should they be clean? This is no longer just a quest towards sustainability but also a quest for business survival. Without consideration on environmental impact, industry can no longer stay competitive. The discussion in the paper and by the panelists on the green transformation are in line with our national policy on Bio-Circular-Green Economic Development Model (BGC Model). We are pleased to see diverse range of good practices and often ground-breaking work elaborated in the paper. Reflecting on the guiding question that this paper addresses on what countries should do to take advantage of this window of opportunity, please allow me to share Thailand's experience on the utilization of technology and innovation for cleaner and more productive and competitive production.

The first example I would like to share is about Mae Moh, a district in the northern part of Thailand with the largest coal mine and a power plant. It is owned and operated by the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT), who has run the mine and power plant since 1970s. EGAT realised the environmental impact of its operation on air, water, soil and the living condition of the people. An ecological and environmental study and monitoring have been conducted. The mine and power plant are managed with a concern on environmental impact with participation of the community. The mining area has undergone restoration to become forest and recreational areas. A mobile application was created for locals to monitor smog and forest fire in the province. There was community innovation to produce premium organic and chemical fertilizer. A smart city initiative has also been planned for the community to be self-reliant and develop a sustainable social enterprise. This development project received ASEAN Energy Awards in 2021 for its excellent contribution in environmentally-friendly coal management, sustainable community development, and energy conservation promotion, with an integration of public participation in every dimension.

The second example I would like to share is about cement industry which takes up a significant share of energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. The largest cement industry in Thailand is located in Saraburi Province. The government has worked together with industrial sector, agricultural sector, and the community to create Saraburi Sandbox as a model province with zero net greenhouse gas emissions. The sandbox is an environmental project to strengthen cooperation with various stakeholders, utilize technology and innovation and leverage on competent manpower to support the development of the area to meet the demand of industry and local community.

Apart from these two examples which put the vision of the BCG model into operation and provide illustration of developing countries effort for cleaner and more productive and competitive production, we also have a collaboration with UNCTAD, as the Head of the CSTD Secretariat mentioned in her welcoming remarks earlier this morning. Together with UNCTAD, we will offer a capacity building program to promote BCG model by supporting female researchers and entrepreneurs in their work towards inclusive and sustainable development. The program will be open for the CSTD members, and we welcome collaboration and support from international partners and international organizations. My colleague will provide more details during the ECOSOC's post-review recommendations session tomorrow.

Thank you very much.