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**CSTD 2022-2023 priority theme on “Ensuring safe water and sanitation for all: a solution
by science, technology and innovation”**

Statement submitted by

Thailand

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Intervention from the Delegation of Thailand
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Thank you, the Secretariat and the panelists, for excellent presentations. Please allow me a few minutes to share our reflections on the issues paper prepared by the CSTD Secretariat.

Thailand has been satisfactorily successful in achieving some indicators in SDG 6 (Sustainable Development Goal on water and sanitation). According to the data from WHO and UNICEF in 2020, 100% of the population in Thailand use safely managed drinking water services (Indicator 6.1.1) and an improved sanitation facility while 26% use safely managed sanitation services (Indicator 6.2.1a).*

Nevertheless, we recognize that providing clean and safe water and sanitation is not enough and that we must improve wastewater management, water quality, water-use efficiency, water resources management, and the protection and restoration of water-related ecosystems. As the real threat of climate change looming, we realize that integrated water resources management must be taken seriously as we face more frequent and intense storms, floods, and droughts affecting water security, food security as well as human security.

Recently, an effort has been made by relevant authorities and stakeholders in the overhauling the country's water resource management system. Since 2018, the Thai Government has tried to streamline the management of water resources through the enactment of the Water Resources Act. This law provides for the establishment of a national committee overseeing water resources management policy ex officio chaired by the Prime Minister and de facto chaired by a designated Deputy Prime Minister. This committee has an authority to formulate a policy framework and a master plan on water resources management and instruct government agencies and local governments to enforce the law regarding water pollution control and water quality management. This is the first step to improve inter-ministry coordination and to bring in relevant stakeholders into the system through participation in the river basin committees connecting with local governments and communities.

The next step is to create an intelligence unit to be a think tank for water resources management with the tasks of stakeholder cooperation and integration, alternative policy research, innovation and instrument development, and process development based on scientific information.

A further proposal is to establish a ministry with direct responsibility for water resources management, bringing in the secretariat of the national water resources committee, the intelligence unit, and relevant departments from other ministries. New mechanisms such as new financing and funding schemes, sandbox schemes, intelligence unit, and tools are to be created, aiming at more effective decentralization of water resources management, increased community participation, increased water budget for dry season use, increased reuse of treated water to reduce water scarcity, and disaster risk reduction.

*<https://www.sdg6data.org/country-or-area/Thailand>

We would like to second the report that an integrated water resources management system must consider various users and uses of water. Science, technology, and innovation is undoubtedly an indispensable part of this system; but economic, social, and cultural knowledge as well as social innovation are also as important. The roles of local communities and local government are also not to be taken lightly as achieving SDGs require successful localization. The roles of the national government are to bring everyone on board and connect users of knowledge to producers of knowledge, such as universities and research institutions.

Another point that we would like to second is that no country can act alone on this issue. We must foster international partnership for SDGs involving several actors and networks with global, regional, and sub-regional focuses. Thailand is willing to participate in international partnerships related to water resources management to ensure future sustainability of our planet's water resources.

Thank you very much.