

## **Statement by the Delegation of Thailand**

**H.E. Mr. Sek Wannamethee**

**Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand**

**Trade and Development Board, 67<sup>th</sup> Session, First Segment**

**Item 3 – Actions carried out and/or planned by UNCTAD to support States in the recovery of their trade and industries after overcoming the pandemic**

**Friday 3 July 2020, 10.00 – 12.00 hrs.**

Mr. President,

1. At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your appointment as the President of the TDB. I assure you of my delegation's full support and look forward to working closely with you under your presidency. I also align my statement with the statement made by Ambassador of Zambia on behalf of G77 and China and the statement made by Iraq on behalf of Asia-Pacific group.
2. The challenges of COVID-19 pandemic are unprecedented and its impacts on our economies are immediate and long term. To confront these uncertain times, it is important for countries to have access to data-driven analyses and guidelines to help us recover from this economic crisis more efficiently and coherently. In this regard, I wish to commend UNCTAD's policy analysis on this matter, especially its series of publications which are highly beneficial. I would also like to offer three recommendations as follows:
3. First, we should share more of our best practices. Given this wealth of analyses and recommendations, it is now important to discuss how to implement them for sustainable recovery. In addition, there is no one-size-fits-all policy and it is valuable for countries to share their experiences in implementing their economic recovery plans. UNCTAD should, therefore, initiate more dialogues to promote the sharing of best practices among countries which is considered crucial for sustainable economic recovery and resilience after the pandemic.
4. Thailand was among the first countries to report COVID-19 cases and we have managed to keep the pandemic under control with extremely low death rate. Since March, Thailand has been implementing our economic recovery plan,

focusing on issues which are consistent with UNCTAD's recommendations. Such issues include continuing free and fair trade environment to minimize the disruptions to supply chain connectivity, encouraging spending, preventing employee layoffs, helping small business roll over financial debts, and enhancing digital literacy. These measures are divided into 3 phases with a total value of approximately 80 billion US dollars, targeting individuals, firms, SMEs, financial systems, and workers including those in the informal sector.

5. Second, UNCTAD should lead an initiative to help developing countries implement its recommendations upon request. UNCTAD can provide tailored policy recommendations and help coordinate with other relevant UN agencies such as UNDP through its Resident Coordinators to carry out the assistance requested on the ground.

6. Last but not least, the promotion of international cooperation is vital to global economic recovery. UNCTAD can further support North-South, South-South and regional cooperation on this matter. For instance, UNCTAD can reach out to all regional organizations and related international organizations to encourage the use of its analyses and recommendations. Cooperation with the private sector is also of great importance. In this regard, UNCTAD can join forces with the World Economic Forum to highlight the needs of developing countries to the private sector. This could help start Public-Private Partnerships in mitigating the economic impact of the pandemic and building resilience in developing countries and the global economy.

7. I thank you.

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