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**The role of science, technology and innovation in a sustainable and resilient
recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic**

Statement submitted by

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Statement for Round Table Discussion

By H.E. Prof.Dr. Anek Laothamatas

**Minister of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation
for 24th Commission on Science and Technology for Development
(CSTD24)**

17 May 2021, 20.00-21.00 hrs. (UTC+7)

- Excellencies
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, my appreciation for your invitation to deliver a statement for this round table discussion to share my views on how science, technology and innovation play a vital part for a post COVID-19 recovery and the opportunity to strengthen international cooperation to achieve Sustainable Development Goals or SDGs.

Since the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted in 2015, the 17 goals with 169 targets have been implemented by United Nations Member States. This is a plan of action for people, planet, and prosperity which leaves no one behind. Thailand originally supports and contributes to SDGs by adopting Sufficiency Economy initiated by our late King Bhumibhol as our path towards SDGs.

Recently, the global pandemic of COVID-19 has created the “New Normal” that impacts everyone everywhere in the world. Global academic and scientific communities have united and utilized science, technology and innovation, towards the understanding of the outbreak, as well as the development of new drugs and vaccines to cope with the COVID-19. The pandemic has given us an opportunity to rethink our priorities and the implementation of SDGs with appropriate technology to help advancing human livelihood, social adaptation, and a new economic model.

In this regards, Thailand, has recently introduced so called Bio-Circular-Green Economy or “BCG Economy” as a new model for inclusiveness and sustainable growth. The BCG Economy utilizes Thailand’s strengths in its rich biodiversity and robust agricultural activities. We are also promoting cultural diversity to promote economic wealth along with social well-being. The BCG Economy model enables the local communities to thrive with resiliency while sharing and connecting to the global communities. I hereby would like to propose the BCG Economy model as a new opportunity for a post COVID-19 international recovery.

Last but not least, I do hope that this Meeting will bring about great and sustainable changes to us all. And, I wish you all success from this event.

Thank you very much.