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**Science, technology and innovation for sustainable urban development in a
post-pandemic world**

Statement submitted by

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**Intervention by
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President
Office of National Higher Education, Science, Research and
Innovation Policy Council
High-level Panel on Science, Technology and Innovation for
Sustainable Urban
Development in a Post-Coronavirus (COVID-19) World
United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for
Development (CSTD)
Twenty-fifth Session, 30 March 2022, 14:30-16:30 hrs. (Geneva Time)**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The report on “Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Urban Development in the Post-Pandemic World” emphasizes the role of science, technology and innovation

and the importance of collective action and collaboration at national and international levels to be the key to sustainable urban development.

We very much appreciate the inclusion of Thailand’s BCG Economic Development Model in the Report of the Secretary-General.

The BCG Model has been employed in Thailand as a national policy to promote inclusive and sustainable growth.

The main idea of the BCG Model is to use science, technology and innovation to enlarge value creation from the richness of bio resources and culture heritage in Thailand,

which evenly distributes the benefits of prosperity and well-being to all the citizen inclusively.

Inclusiveness and social well-being are as important as economic prosperity.

Therefore, to address the theme of “Sustainable Urban Development”, I would like to bring up three important components of STI policy in this direction on top of ordinary works we usually do in urban planning,

like, for example, smart city, smart transport, smart energy and so on.

These three components include: Social Mobility, Net-Zero Carbon Emission and Health Security and Wellness.

Regarding the first, we believe that urban development and human development must go hand in hand.

Thus, social mobility, particularly getting those underprivileged ones, moved up to a higher social status, a higher level of income

or a larger opportunity to access better career, may be more important than building smart physical infrastructure for a smart city.

Integrating social mobility into urban development will bring about not only a smart living

but also the distribution of wealth and social equality.

To this extent, bringing high quality education, science and innovation to people from all walks of life must be included in sustainable urban planning.

Second, on carbon net zero emission. In consistence with the commitment to mitigate climate change, Thailand has announced a new target for carbon neutrality by 2050 and net zero emission by 2065.

Carbon net zero transition is critical to sustainable urban development

as it has impacts on people's way of living, health, job & employment, the economy, as well as environmental and natural resources security.

Therefore, carbon net zero should be incorporated as one of the key agenda of urban development.

Thailand has put carbon net zero a high priority agenda and committed to work with international partners.

Some key areas that we are ready for collaboration include increasing renewable energy capacity,

improving energy efficiency, circular economy, reforestation, and technology development such as carbon capture storage and utilisation.

Third, innovation for health security. The COVID-19 pandemic has put health security a key component in building resilient and sustainable future growth.

Wellness Innovation Corridors have been set up in Thailand, with the measure focusing on providing access to quality healthcare and medical services as well as economic boosting and area-based development.

To move this initiative forward, we embrace multi-stakeholder collaborative ecosystems

comprising health policy units, public health service units, local administrative organizations, educational institutions, local communities and social networks.

We strongly believe that science, technology and innovation are solutions for building livable, inclusive and sustainable cities.

Nevertheless, this requires strong support from the government and international partnership in terms of policy and implementation.

We hope that our country experience can benefit other CSTD members.

With this I conclude my remark. Thank you.