

**Statement by
H.E. Mr. Rongvudhi Virabutr
Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative of Thailand and chargé d'affaires a.i.
to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva
at the Sixty-Eighth Session of the Trade and Development Board
Item 5 – Technology and Innovation Report 2021:
Catching Technological Waves – Innovation with Equity
23 June 2021**

President of Trade and Development Board,
Acting Secretary-General of UNCTAD,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Participants,

First and foremost, Thailand wishes to thank UNCTAD's Division on Technology and Logistics for their report. Thailand further wishes to align ourselves with the statement by G77 and China.

UNCTAD's Technology and Innovation Report 2021 serves as an excellent foundation for developing countries to consider how technological progress can help us achieve our SDG goals. At the same time, it warns us that this same progress can perpetuate inequalities and create new ones. The task before us, the report states, is to maximize potential benefits, while mitigating harmful outcomes.

What we must remember among us, especially the developing countries and LDC, is that we must pick and choose the technologies most suitable for us. This is the only way to maximize benefits and mitigate harmful outcomes. There is no point in taking a helicopter to work, when a simple bike ride would suffice.

In the same manner, developing countries and LDCs must be able to make use of STI to add value to products and improve efficiency of production as well as increase revenue, especially for small-scale agriculture and SMEs. We must create the tools to break out of the middle-income trap and improve social inequality.

In this regard, Thailand has embraced the "Bio-Circular-Green Economy Model (BCG Model)", which uses a 'whole-of-society' approach and involves integrating biocircular economy, and green economy with advanced technologies and innovations throughout the supply chains to boost competitiveness, enhance resource efficiency, transform waste into value, and mitigate impacts on the environment. In other words, it encourages the use of technology most suited to us to maximise the use of resources available to developing countries.

STI lies at the heart of the BCG model and is complemented by our Thailand 4.0 policy to create an innovation-driven economy to meet the challenges of the 4th Industrial Revolution. It is Thailand's way of deploying STI and frontier technology in the appropriate national context to achieve the SDG goals.

To illustrate practical uses of BCG model principles, Thailand is using our rich agricultural background to focus development in areas such as future and functional food and traceability

mechanisms in agricultural and food value chains as well as the integration of SMEs and farmers into eco-friendly global supply chains, for example. To create resilience and new opportunities for the economy, Thailand has also focused on sectors we are well known for, such as health and wellness and smart logistics. Thailand's Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC), based in Thailand's three Eastern provinces, has a central role in developing these sectors and also host facilities for research and development in innovation, digital technology, and genomics.

Moving towards the future requires new development models most suited to each country's context, not past models which have resulted in today's world plagued by inequity and technological gaps. Thailand believes that the principles of the BCG Model can be applied globally by developing countries and LDCs in accordance with our own individual contexts. As we look forward to UNCTAD XV, Thailand looks forward to working closely with UNCTAD and UNCTAD members to enhance STI cooperation, and would welcome initiatives with UNCTAD to further explore the benefits of the BCG Model, Thailand's proposed development model for the future.

Thank you.

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