

Thailand's Statement

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Mr. Chair,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

- On behalf of the Royal Thai Government, I would like to thank the UN-Habitat for organizing this Second Session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly. At this halfway point in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and seven years since the adoption of the New Urban Agenda, cooperation and partnership is more important than ever.

- The Thai government focuses our efforts on building immunity and resilience for the people by investing in an inclusive social protection system for all. This has become necessary especially as part of our recovery efforts from the COVID-19 pandemic.

- The National Committee on Housing Policy, chaired by the Prime Minister, serves as the main mechanism to develop national policies, strategies and measures to ensure “Housing for All”. Under the committee, 76 provincial housing working groups have been established to implement housing policies at the provincial level.

- The National Housing Authority has launched several residential programs targeting more than 2 million low and middle - income earners to increase their access to affordable housing. The programs include Urban Renewal Project, housing

development along the mass rapid transit lines, and Rental housing project for low-income elderly, civil servants and retired government officials.

- Baan Mankong, which is a city-wide Slum Upgrading Program, is an example of sustained housing developments in Thailand. The project adopts a community-driven approach by providing technical support and finance to urban poor communities targeting 135,000 households across the country to enable them to upgrade their housing while creating a sense of ownership of the program by these communities.

- At the local level, the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration has set a goal to achieve “a livable city for all” by 2026, based on the NUA and SDG 11, to make cities inclusive, people-centered, safe, resilient and sustainable.

- In addition, the government has partnered with UN-Habitat in 2019-2022 on SDGs and NUA localization in 4 pilot localities to raise awareness and build capacity of local authorities and the provincial committee on Housing Development.

- The Ministry of Interior, and 76 provinces have also partnered with UN agencies to localize SDGs at the provincial level by scaling up projects aiming to reduce carbon emissions and conserve biodiversity. Smart farming has also been supported. Climate adaptation is also taken into account in spatial and urban planning.

Mr. Chair,

- Thailand’s efforts are guided by the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP), Thailand’s homegrown development approach, which promotes balance in all aspects, be they economic, environmental or social. Building upon the SEP is the Bio-Circular-Green- Economy Model, which aims to promote balanced growth while preserving nature and the environment.

- Thailand reaffirms our commitment to working closely with all stakeholders for the full and effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We are committed to ensuring access to affordable housing, effective urban planning, urban climate action and crisis recovery. We look forward to working closely with the international community to ensure a successful meeting, while laying the groundwork for a results-oriented SDG Summit later this year.

- I thank you.
