



Statement

by

His Excellency General Prayut Chan-o-cha (Ret.),

Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand,

at the Leaders Event for Heads of State and Government

during the Twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties

to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Paris, France, 30 November 2015

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

1. At the outset, I wish to convey my deepest condolences to the families of the victims of the horrendous attacks in Paris two weeks ago. Thailand joins with other countries in condemning such barbaric acts. We support and stand in solidarity with France and with every country in the fight against all forms of extremism.

2. I have also come here today to reaffirm Thailand's firm commitment to work with the global community in reaching a new climate agreement that is concrete, implementable and sustainable.

3. Due to climate change, we are faced with the challenges of global warming; of depleting natural resources, natural disasters and rising sea levels, which affect island countries as well as low-lying nations. Periodic droughts are also diminishing clean water supplies, including water for agricultural and domestic use, which in turn threatens our food security and affects farmers' incomes and food production; exacerbates resource scarcity as well as poverty, and might lead to conflict, including over water resources. These are all added burdens for developing countries whose incomes depend heavily on agricultural commodities, whose prices are in constant decline. Therefore, in compensation for this loss in income, we should develop the green economy in developing countries and at the same time, minimize the effects of greenhouse gas emissions. I want every country to be especially mindful of this to ensure equitable mitigation and adaptation as well as balanced development.

4. Natural resources and environment belongs to us all. We have a collective responsibility to protect and conserve, especially by limiting the rise in global temperatures to below 1.5 or 2 degrees Celsius based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

5. I therefore call on all nations to re-double their efforts through North-South and South-South cooperation on finance, research and development and technology transfer, as well as in promoting environmental awareness on the part of the public.

6. For Thailand, we have an action plan to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by 20 to 25 per cent by the year 2030. We are working on all fronts to achieve this target by using less fossil fuels and more renewable energy, such as through promoting the use of hybrid and electric cars; switching from road to rail transport; converting waste into energy; increasing the share of alternative energy in the energy mix in our power development plan; halting deforestation and promoting reforestation in ASEAN as well as devising an integrated water resources management plan and implementing the ASEAN Haze-Free Roadmap. But what is most important, however, is sustainable development. For the past five decades, Thailand has benefited from His Majesty the King's Sufficiency Economy Philosophy, which has been implemented through public-private partnerships and with the participation of civil society, NGOs and the public. This Philosophy is our guiding principle for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Mr. President,

7. As the incoming Chair of the Group of 77 in 2016, Thailand is committed to bridging positions and interests within the Group and with other partners to advance the common objectives of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change for the sustainable future of this planet.

Thank you.
