**Thailand’s input for the Talanoa Dialogue**

Thailand welcomes the Talanoa Dialogue as an opportunity to take stock of our collective efforts and to consider both pre-2020 and post-2020 action and ambition. The Talanoa Dialogue should be facilitative and comprehensive, where all major issues (mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology and capacity building) should be addressed. It should identify difficulties, gaps and challenges of Parties and stakeholders to combat climate change and to meet pre-2020 obligations. At the same time, it should also highlight progress, lessons learned, innovative solutions and best practices to contribute to our future actions.

**1. Where are we?**

**The adverse impacts of climate change continues to exacerbate.**  In 2017, we were faced with the warmest year not influenced by an El Niño event, the most costly hurricane season, destructive wildfires, and 30% of our populations faced extreme heatwaves. The World Meteorological Organization estimated that disaster losses from weather and climate-related events last year was $320 billion – the largest annual total on record. These adverse impacts affect and undermine the ability of all countries, in particular, developing countries, to achieve sustainable development. Thailand is among the most vulnerable countries to the climate change impacts. The Global Climate Risk Index placed Thailand as the 9th country most affected by the long-term impacts of climate change.

**Current global efforts to address climate change remain inadequate.** There are still significant gaps in pre-2020 period in mitigation ambition and actions. In 2016,greenhouse gas concentrations reached new highs, the global mean temperature in 2017 was approximately 1.1 degree Celsius above the pre-industrial era. As our effort to contribute to the closing of these gaps, Thailand voluntarily pledged our NAMAs in 2014 to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 7-20% by 2020. So far, we have successfully reduced our emission by 11%. Nonetheless, more need to be done globally to enhance pre-2020 action and support in order to provide a solid foundation for post-2020 implementation.

**Developing countries still face difficulties in delivering climate actions.** From Thailand’s experience in the implementation of NAMAs and the development of NDC, we have encountered gaps and needs, and continued to require assistance on many areas such as data collection system, modelling, R&D, technical expertise, technology transfer and development and support for adaptation implementation.

**Good practices and efforts are taking place at national level, and they could provide guidance for future actions.** During the past few years, we have seen increasing efforts and strong initiatives from both Parties and other stakeholders to tackle climate change and promote climate actions at national level. Thailand believes that combating climate change is an integral part of our efforts to achieve sustainable development. We have integrated climate measure into our national strategies and planning, such as the twelfth National Economic and Social Development Plans and the draft 20-Year National Strategy Framework. These efforts at national level need to be further encouraged, supported and shared through international cooperation. As a concrete example, Thailand is implementing a Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (RAC NAMA) project to promote the use of natural refrigerants for energy efficient and climate-friendly cooling technologies in cooling industries, air-conditioning and refrigeration. This project will contribute to the country’s energy efficiency and GHG emission reduction and is a pioneer example that can be a useful model for other sectors and sub sectors to promote effective cooperation and partnership with the private sector to drive domestic climate actions.

**2. Where do we want to go?**

**At a global level**

The Paris Agreement has already provided a clear path to where we want to go. The long-term temperature goal, in Article 2, reflects the commitment by all Parties to significantly reduce risks and impacts of climate change.

At the same time, the Paris Agreement also sets to increase our ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and to foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development, taking into account national circumstance, socio-economic and cultural contexts.

Mitigation and adaptation efforts require adequate and predictable support. We must deliver on the promise. Adequate, predictable, and continuous climate finance is essential for climate actions. Support should respond to the needs and priorities of recipient countries with an equal focus on mitigation and adaptation efforts.

**At a national level**

As a short-term target, Thailand has pledged to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 20% to 25% by 2030. We have launched the Thailand’s Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Roadmap on Mitigation 2021-2030 since May 2017 to ensure our policies are on track to meet our 2030 targets.

Thailand also strives to move towards climate-resilient development pathway. We are developing Thailand’s first National Adaptation Plan (NAP) which will guide the implementation of our adaptation NDC in various sectors, including water management, agriculture, natural resources management, tourism, public health and human settlement.

**3. How do we get there?**

**We need to accelerate the transformation to low greenhouse gas emission and climate resilient development.** This transformation is cross-sectoral by nature, and we need structural changes in different sectors (e.g. economy, energy, finance, technology, etc.) at both global and national levels.

**We need to consider the synergies between climate action and sustainable development.** Combatting climate change is intrinsically linked to our efforts toward achieving Sustainable Development Goals. Hence, pursuing climate action and SDGs in an integrated and coherent manner can enable countries to achieve their objectives under the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**Adequate means of implementation need to be provided to developing countries to enable them to enhance their mitigation and adaptation actions.** Inadequate resources continue to hinder developing countries’ efforts to achieve their climate targets. Based on Thailand’s experience in developing and implementing NAMAs and in developing NDC, we have identified a range of gaps and needs, such as (1) capacity-building for data collection system and MRV and M&E (Monitoring and Evaluation) systems; (2) research & development to serve as a knowledge base for climate policy development; (3) technical expertise and technology needs in both mitigation and adaptation issues which require interdisciplinary approaches; and (4) capacity building for just transition of the work force.

**We must empower our people.** Once people are properly empowered, they will be able to start changing from within. Shifting to sustainable consumption can start at individual level, and can serve as a stepping stone towards low emission and climate resilient development. Adverse impacts of climate change bring uncertainties and risks, hence, we must work to ensure that our communities have self-immunity and resilience to cope with those risk. These actions are in line with the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) which has guided Thailand’s development policies over the past two decades and has been our home-grown approach to guide the country towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The SEP, which was initiated and advocated by the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej, is not to be confused with the concept of self-sufficiency, as the SEP stresses moderation, sustainability, appropriate technology, careful risk management, immunity from economic shocks, and flexibility with special emphasis on inclusive decision-making, care for the environment, and the well-being of people.

In this regard, Thailand believes that SEP can be our indirect contribution to others as a model for sustainable development that emphasize cultivating a sustainable mindset and creating balance among the three dimensions of life (eg. economic, social and environmental). Currently, we have already carried out the “SEP for SDGs partnership” projects in more than 10 countries with many more in the pipeline (Lesotho, Cambodia, Timor-Leste, Chile, Lao PDR, Tonga, Fiji, Sri Lanka, Benin, Comoros, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Solomon Islands, and the Philippines)