

**Statement
by
H.E. Mr. Varawut Silpa-Archa
Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand**

**At the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation
of Sustainable Development Goal 14:**

**Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine
resources for sustainable development**

**28 June 2022
Lisbon, Portugal**

**Excellencies,
Good afternoon,
Sawassdee Krub**

On behalf of the Royal Thai Government, I am grateful to the Governments of Kenya and Portugal for co-hosting this Conference. It has been five years since we pledged our Voluntary Commitments to implement the SDG 14 at the first Ocean Conference in 2017.

Thailand has attached ourselves with the global community in pushing forward our concerted efforts towards the achievement of the SDG14 amidst the widespread of the COVID-19. We have promoted the Bio-Circular-Green economy model or BCG as a guideline for achieving the targets. The implication of BCG in ocean space is considerably comparable to the Blue Economy concept. However, we are of the opinion that we still need to do more, especially when our predicament is associated with the triple planetary crises, including climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

Our Prime Minister, General Prayut Chan-o-cha, thus, announced at the UNFCCC COP26 that Thailand will strive to reach carbon neutrality by 2050 and net zero emissions by 2065, with adequate, timely, and equitable support of finance, technology transfer

and capacity building. I remain convinced that we can't solve the problem of climate change without dealing with the ocean as it is the enormous climate regulator.

Meanwhile, Thailand has integrated the concept of nature-based solutions to the sustainable management of marine and coastal resources plans and policies in order to reduce threats while strengthen the ecological resilience of marine and coastal ecosystems. The marine protected area coverage is also expanding. Recent recovery of marine resources in protected areas and tourist attractions are the clear evidence of the effective measures.

Furthermore, Thailand has implemented several plans and policies to combat IUU Fishing, such as Marine Fisheries Management Plan, 2020–2022, and the National Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing. Such prominent management schemes, including the monitoring and control system, database and fishing vessel registration system, dissemination and sharing of vessel information and litigation as well as eradication of stateless vessels, have been rigorously executed.

Excellencies,

It is undeniable that the ocean's health is currently in decline by marine plastic pollution which has jeopardized all marine life as well as degraded the seawater quality. Therefore, Thailand has played the active and constructive role in the international arena, both at the global and regional levels, particularly in ASEAN.

The ASEAN Action Plan for Combating Marine Debris, building on the Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris, initiated by Thailand in good collaboration with all ASEAN Member States, has already been on the ground. At national level, the Roadmap on Plastic Waste Management, 2018–2030, based on the concept of the public-private partnership, has served as the major instrument to entirely tackle plastic pollution.

Thailand has actively engaged in the implementation of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and will host the Decade Coordination Office for the Western Pacific.

In this connection, with our effort and cooperation with IOC-WESTPAC, Thailand can now submit a new Voluntary Commitment on the Observation and Research in Response to Ocean Acidification, which will contribute to the advancement of the ocean science.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We all know that the ocean action is now flourishing around the world, but the progress made reveals that we still far from the achievement of SDG14. We still need more effort-much more, especially on the massive intensification of science-policy interface. In this connection, we urge all stakeholders to scale up our action, not only by the government sector but also every single citizen. We shall not hang our heads in shame and turn away in apathy. Let's fight the status quo in order to hand down the healthy ocean and the healthy planet to our children and theirs.

Allow me to end my statement with a fact that oceans without human are living oceans, but human without oceans is dead human. Thank you.

Khob Khun Krub