

Statement by
H.E. Prof. Pornpetch Wichitcholchai
President of the Senate of the Kingdom of Thailand
at the General Debate during the 144th IPU Assembly on 21 March 2022

Mister/Madam President,
Honourable delegates,
Distinguished participants,
Dear colleagues,

1. Right now, as we speak here in Bali, the adverse impacts of climate change are becoming more evident and affecting the lives and livelihoods of people around the world, which demands urgent global actions. Thailand, thus, wishes to commend Indonesia, our host parliament, for reminding us not to let the COVID pandemic overshadow this pressing challenge of humanity, and our mission to curb the rising global temperature, which remains at the top of the IPU's priority list.
2. As one of the world's top-ten countries most affected by the long-term impacts of climate change and one of the first group of parties to join the **Paris Agreement** in 2015, Thailand is making a good progress in fulfilling our commitments to achieve the goals and objectives of the **UNFCCC** and its Paris Agreement.
3. Aside from our success in reducing 17 per cent of our emissions in the energy and transport sectors in 2020, meeting our 'Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action' or **NAMA** target, Thailand will take further steps to address climate change. At the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC or COP26, in Glasgow last November, the Prime Minister of Thailand announced our new ambitions to reach carbon neutrality by 2050, and net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2065.

4. Guided by **Bio-Circular-Green** or **BCG** economy model, Thailand will continue to prioritize circular economic system at a faster pace and pursue a greener, digitally driven and low-carbon path to development by rolling out measures and policies that help the world attain global net zero by 2050. We will push ahead with restructuring the energy industry and focusing on climate-smart infrastructure to accommodate the clean and renewable energy transition trend and greening the financial system through the ASEAN Low Carbon Energy Programme, as well as optimizing energy consumption through innovation and using next-generation technologies for electric vehicle production as part of “**Thailand 4.0**” national development strategy.

Dear colleagues,

5. In keeping with Thailand’s pledges made at COP26 summit, the **Parliament of Thailand** stands ready to help strengthen the country’s climate actions. Therefore, I am personally pleased to inform you that Thailand is now in the process of preparing the country’s first-ever dedicated **Climate Change Act**, which includes obligations for the private sector to report their GHG emissions to the national greenhouse gas inventory, while stipulating administrative fines for failure to report such emissions. This legislation would prompt our private sector to start aligning their ways of doing business with the country’s climate targets. The draft Act is expected to go through nationwide public hearings and tabled to the Parliament later this year.

6. To keep the 1.5 degree Celsius target within reach, Thailand would like to emphasize the need for capacity building, technology transfer and financial supports to assist developing countries in accelerating their mitigation efforts. We are confident that with enhanced support on and access to climate finance and necessary low-carbon technology, Thailand can increase our 'Nationally Determined Contributions' or **NDCs** to 40 percent and achieve our net zero even before 2065.

Mister/Madam President,

Dear colleagues,

7. I wish to close by reiterating that we must turn this COVID-19 crisis into an opportunity. Let us make every effort to recover better and greener by creating more balanced low-carbon and climate-resilient societies and economies that benefit everyone. As the stakes have never been higher and we have little time left to enhance our climate actions, parliamentarians across the globe need to work together to intensify our actions to tackle the climate emergency and achieve the goals and objectives of the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement at the earliest opportunities. This is an ultimate war that humanity can join hands to fight against global warming, our common enemy, and protect the blue planet, our only home and the future of our next generations.

8. Thank you for your kind attention.
