

**\*Unofficial translation of a statement delivered by  
H.E. Mr. Mongkol Surasajja, President of the Senate of Thailand  
at the General Debate during the 149th IPU Assembly\***

---

Madam/Mr. President,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Esteemed colleagues,

1. Like many other countries, one of Thailand's core aspirations is to leverage science, technology and innovation to exponentially propel the country's development to new heights. STI is the very key that leads us towards innovation-driven transformation, while eradicating poverty and inequality as well as equally distributing wealth to all groups, particularly the most vulnerable and marginalized ones. STI will create new growth engine that carry us to new opportunities and prepared us for a prosperous and balanced future, fulfilling our Sustainable Development Agenda within 2030, while leaving no-one behind.

2. Under our current five-year national strategy for STI and our major STI legislation passed in 2019, Thailand is determined to promote science, technology as well as R&D for innovation in various new disciplines and key technological sectors of interest to Thailand that would enhance our capabilities to maintain self-reliance, boosting our adaptability to many fast-changing disruptions and strengthening our readiness for new challenges to come. This strategy is a roadmap guiding our way to realize our ambition to escape the middle-income trap and become a regional center for high-competency workforce, while conserving the environment and ecosystems.

3. With a view to driving the next generation growth, Thailand recently launched an "Ignite Thailand Vision 2030" which is intended not only to boost the country's growth by creativity and innovation focusing on value creation and transform it into a global industrial hub through investment and transfers of cutting-edge technology in top industries including, advanced digital industry, high-wealth wellness and medical tourist destination, a leader in high-value food and agricultural products for the future, a regional center of renewable clean energy and future mobility, but also to fulfill our dream to become a key player in tech and innovation in ASEAN as well. Thailand's commitment to technology and innovation is also evident in its vision to become the artificial intelligence hub of Southeast Asia by 2027.

4. Over the years, the Parliament of Thailand has taken many legislative initiatives to facilitate our efforts in leveraging STI in order to scale up the country's competitiveness in the long run. One prime example is a ground-breaking Bill to promote utilization of research and innovation issued in 2021 aiming to encourage greater commercial use of R&D funded by government agencies, while expanding opportunities for greater technological transfer to the private sector that would, in turn, benefit the wider public. Most recently, a new draft bill to establish a national advanced STI research institute was approved with overwhelming support of the Lower House two weeks ago and now tabled for the Senate's second reading, hoping to strengthen Thailand's overall STI capacity.

5. In addition, the Thai Parliament has, over the years, invested more in modern digital technologies and innovation to ensure

transparent, efficient, smart and inclusive parliamentary functions empowering citizens with online solutions to catalyze deeper and more meaningful public engagement with our legislative process in due compliance with international frameworks and standards. All of these undertakings are to transform our parliament into a truly digital, open, green and climate-smart parliament.

6. In closing, the National Assembly of Thailand stands ready to collaborate with IPU member parliaments towards a broader and deeper partnership built on a solid groundwork on STI for a knowledge-based society that move toward a more people-centered development agenda, while minimizing the environmental impacts. It is within our mandates, as representatives of the people, to make sure that scientific advancement will be the key drivers for a more balanced, just, equitable, inclusive and sustainable path to growth that benefits all for the brighter future of our next generations and for the sustainability of our planet.

I thank you, Madam/Mr. President.

-----

