

Statement by
H.E. Mr. Don Pramudwinai,
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand,
at the Ministerial Segment of the High-Level Political Forum 2023,
19 July 2023, United Nations Headquarter, New York (4 mins)

Mr. President,

- (1) We gather here at the halfway point of our Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 Global Initiative, acknowledging that we have fallen short on its implementation. We are here to prevent “the world that might have been” scenario from happening.
- (2) Covid-19, lack of political will, funding shortage, inadequate technology transfer, biodiversity loss and climate crises have been cited as major causes of the of SDGs accomplishment deficiency. But I would like to stress here that was it the wars and conflicts that have spread out around our world for various reasons that are the real malefactor.
- (3) Gone was our memory of the utterly brutal two World Wars, gone was the spirit of compromise and the notion of shared interest. Gone was the conviction that security and peace is indivisible. Gone was the recognition that it’s the diplomacy that ends wars.

- (4) Instead, we seem to have charged ahead with condemnation, finger-pointing, expediency, and the tendency to treat differences as adversaries. We have come to prefer simple solutions to willingness to recognition of complexity.
- (5) Unless and until we are willing to acknowledge the root causes of SDGs challenges, we will reach 2030 with the world of vanishing sustainable development.
- (6) So, I am here to express our unequivocal support of United Nations Secretary General's global initiative "New Agenda for Peace" to reinvigorate the trust and confidence building process that seeks to uphold the UN Charter and UN's core principle of conflict prevention, and to fetch by every means, a political as opposed to military settlement of conflicts.
- (7) On sustainable development Goals, Thailand have done our part based on our homegrown Sufficiency of Economy principles that emphasizes moderation and optimization rather than maximization of growth and development. We have taking it one step further at the 2022 Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit under Thailand's chairmanship by introducing a new economic paradigm—Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) Economy that is rooted upon the principle of "balance and moderation," and puts environmental consideration front and center of the new development modality. It also seeks to utilize fast-moving technological advancements in the people-centered and planet-centric development.

- (8) In addressing the human health security, our Universal Health Coverage aims that addressing the inequality.
- (9) In this final half of the Decade of Action, we need to seek transformative approaches and accelerate our efforts. We must make use of all that we have through the whole of government and whole of society approach to drive of the implementation process. These include utilizing We need to mobilize science, technology and innovation, leveraging the power of digital technology, and strengthening resilience of food systems. And these must be powered through sustainable financing for all is also key to transforming SDGs from mere aspiration to reality. Best practices sharing and cooperation between the Global North and Global South is needed. After all, we are in this together.
