

Intervention CED 6 (3 minutes)

9 December 2020 (16.30-17.00)

Agenda 4: Consideration of the future focus of the subprogramme, particularly on opportunities to enhance regional cooperation to accelerate environmental actions

**Mr. chair,**

- Thailand is deeply concerned that environmental impact caused by high rate of population growth and rapid economic development is the most pressing challenges in the region. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the degradation of natural resources and environment is temporary slowdown. We are of the opinion that green recovery approach is a key to build back better. More than that we are confident that strengthening both regional and global cooperation on environmental issues is very important to build forward greener.

**Mr. chair,**

- We would like to comment on the expert group that currently there are a number of technical expert groups to provide scientific advice and guidance on environmental issues to support implementation of multilateral environmental conventions and other environmental commitments. Establishment of a technical expert group under ESCAP framework should be considered carefully to avoid overlapping with other existing frameworks. Moreover, it should not create an extra burden to member countries in terms of financial and other resources, because many developing countries, including Thailand, have a limited number of experts and resources. We therefore suggest that ESCAP Member States should have time to consider and come up with a common understanding on clear Terms of Reference before we can make any decision.

Thank you.

