



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THAILAND
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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Statement

by

H.E. Mr. Virachai Plasai

**Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand
to the United Nations**

on the occasion of

**High-level Launch event: International Decade for Action
“Water for Sustainable Development” 2018 - 2028**

to be delivered on

23 March 2018

General Assembly Hall, United Nations, New York

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Mr. President,

1. On behalf of the Royal Thai Government, I wish to express our sincere appreciation to President of the General Assembly for hosting this event and, through you, to the Secretary General for his presence. We also thank His Excellency President Rahmon (*Tajikistan*) for his leadership and dedication in carrying forward the Water for Sustainable Development agenda.

2. Thailand aligns itself with the statement made by Egypt on behalf of Group of 77 and China.

3. Thailand is pleased with the achievements of the last International Decade for Action on Water for Life 2005 – 2015, in particular in the areas of **access to safe drinking water and sanitation**. We strongly believe that the new International Decade for Action on Water for Sustainable Development will provide a good opportunity to address **the remaining challenges**, including the issues of **water quality and management of water resources**, which are key catalysts to the implementation of **SDG6** and other related Goals.

Mr. President,

4. As a country that, for its development, relies heavily on the agricultural sector, which today still provides one third of our national employment, **Thailand attaches great importance to ensuring adequate supply of water for its population**. Like many other countries, water sustainability has become a challenge for Thailand in the recent years; with **water shortage and droughts in dry season and excessive water due to flooding in rainy season**. These challenges are further aggravated by problems of waste and contaminated water due to rapid urbanisation, expansion of various industries, and chemical use in the agricultural sector.

5. In response to the challenge, the Royal Thai Government launched **the Water Resource Management Strategic Plan 2015-2026** to tackle the problem throughout the whole water cycle. A number of water resource management projects have also been implemented, with inspiration from the pioneer work of **His Majesty the Late King Bhumibol Adulyadej**, who, during six decades of his reign, initiated more than 3,000 projects related to water, ranging from **large scale water resource and waste water management** to scientific innovation such as **artificial rain making** and smaller scale projects on **irrigation and drainage**.

6. We also share our experiences and best practices on water resource management with interested international partners mainly through bilateral, trilateral, and regional **cooperation and trainings** managed by **Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA)**. We are also active in **the Mekong regional cooperation framework**, which promotes water-related capacity building projects in such areas as biodiversity, flood protection and counter measures to climate change.

7. Looking ahead, the new International Decade for Action will provide a solid basis for us to further deepen and widen **partnership** with multi stakeholders in order to advance the Water for Sustainable Development agenda. Among them, we believe that **local communities** can play a key role and should be encouraged and supported to find innovative water solutions that meet their genuine local needs.

8. Together, we hope and we will make the new International Decade for Action a success.

9. Thank you.