Mr. President,

1. I wish to express Thailand’s appreciation to the Executive Board for their endorsement of 11th Country Programme Document (CPD) for the year 2017-2021 and to UNFPA in particular for their tremendous support since 1972, and their close collaboration and consultation with the Government throughout the process in this regard. This CPD will be one of our guiding frameworks in the next five years to develop our population and ensure their lifelong well-being.

2. We are highly appreciative of the fact that, as has always been the case, this CPD takes into consideration our political and socio-economic development challenges and is largely consistent with our national policies as embedded in the 12th National Economic and Social Development Plan and the 20-year National Strategic Plan, giving priorities to promoting inclusive and people-centered development in order to materialise a sustainable society. It is also in line with the Plan of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to which we attach great importance in such a critical time like now.
3. Both our national plan and the draft CPD focus on adolescents and youth, who are capable of creating a positive and impactful change that will last more than a lifetime. We must invest in them, empower them, both mentally and physically, and equip them with the skills and knowledge they need in order to allow them to flourish. To that end, we will expand and improve access to social protection, in particular, those relating to health and education, aiming to reach the poorest of the poor and those that are left furthest behind or in the most vulnerable situations.

Mr. President,

4. As we are quickly turning into an ageing society and going through a major change in our demographic structure, we aim to create a productive and healthy workforce to take advantage of the last window of this enormous demographic dividend. We will also continue to enhance access to quality sexual and reproductive health services for all, especially adolescents and youth, building upon our strong Universal Health Coverage (UHC) system which is available nationwide. Our recent developments include the enactment of the Gender Equality Act and the Alleviation of Adolescent Pregnancy Act.

5. With that said, Thailand, as an emerging and determined donor, remains committed to partner with UNFPA to strengthen South-South and triangular cooperation through Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) to share the knowledge and best practices that we have in our areas of expertise, such as, UHC, women and youth empowerment, reproductive health, and HIV reduction and prevention. Thailand is also eager to share our success story of how we successfully eliminated mother-to-child transmission of HIV, the first country in Asia and the Pacific region.
6. In closing, Thailand stands ready to continue working closely with UNFPA to implement this CPD in order to overcome the pressing challenges as well as to maintain the gains that have been achieved thus far. Thailand wishes to once again thank UNFPA for their significant role in facilitating and complementing our national effort towards sustainable development which is a truly global agenda for all.

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