

His Excellency Dr. Thani Ahmed Al Zeyoudi
The Minister of Climate Change and Environment
Head of the UAE delegation
For
2nd Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Summit
Bangkok, Thailand
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**Excellences and Highnesses,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
May the Peace, mercy and blessings of God be with you!**

At the beginning of my speech, I would like to express my deepest thanks and appreciation for the friendly Kingdom of Thailand, its government and people, for the warm reception, generous hospitality and great efforts dedicated in the organization of the works of the 2nd Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Summit, which we hope it will set an additional brick in the edifice of the joint collective cooperation between us.

I am honored as well to convey to you the greetings of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan – The UAE President, may God protect him, along with His Highness's wishes for the works of this important summit to achieve all success.

I am pleased on this occasion to extend my thanks, gratitude and appreciation to H.H. Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, Ruler of the State of Kuwait for his tireless and fruitful efforts during Kuwait's hosting of the 1st historic (ACD) Summit, which established for the beginning of a new era of fruitful cooperation and consultation between the Asian countries and pushed forward the development of this constructive dialogue.

I would like also to extend my sincere appreciation and thanks to H.E. Prayut Chan-o-cha, Prime minister of Thailand and to H.E. Don Pramudwinai, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand for the outstanding success during Thailand's chairing of the (ACD) and its efforts in organizing the Economic Forum which is considered an important step in enhancing the cooperation of the member countries in business sector and enables us to realize our ambitions and aspirations in demonstrating the theme of this meeting: **“One Asia, Diverse Strength”**.

We would also like to express our welcome of the accession of the Turkish Republic and the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal recently to the list of members of the ACD confirming that this accession will boost the international role of the Forum and will drive us to exert more collaborative and coherent efforts to promote the wheel of development and growth in various areas namely the six priority major pillars recently announced in the 14th Ministerial Meeting of the Asian Cooperation Dialogue, hosted by the Kingdom of Thailand which we value and praise its role in this initiative, having in mind that we relied on Asian Continent possession of natural resources, human capabilities and tremendous variety of human experience and expertise.

I would like to seize this opportunity to announce with pleasure the willingness and keenness to be among the key actors and drivers in the field of "Interrelation of Food, Energy and Water Security" as well as an active element in the connectivity besides a facilitator in the context of science, technology and innovation.

I am pleased to announce the UAE's support to the request of the State of Kuwait for hosting the Secretariat of the Asian Cooperation Dialogue, and we are very confident of the ability of Kuwait to meet its obligations as well as elevating, promoting and developing the Asia Cooperation Dialogue Forum.

**Excellencies and Highnesses,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The world is going through an extremely crucial and critical circumstances as instability, the financial crises, immigration, refugees and the growing tendency of extremism and terrorism all represent a crucial challenges to the International Community as well as the challenges of the sustainable development including the deterioration in the environmental conditions and climate change. These critical challenges cannot be addressed, dealt with and solved without close international cooperation which makes us emphasize that the Asia Cooperation Dialogue Forum contributes to strengthening the gains of the international cooperation and identify priorities for this cooperation and ways to achieve it, we in the UAE are looking forward and look to our meeting to represent the unified and collective determination and bright aspirations towards the desired future that fulfils the hopes of the peoples of the Asian continent in progress, development and prosperity.

We would also like to emphasize at this meeting on the status given by the international law for the principle of State or sovereign immunity, and that the making of laws which violate this

sovereignty is considered a very dangerous and serious precedent in dealing with these countries. It is also considered a clear violation of the criminal laws that stipulate on the personalistic of punishment as everyone is responsible for what he or she has committed without the extension of the effects of the crime to others or to the States, which he/she is one of its citizens.

The adoption of any unilateral legislations that result in or lead to act against the national sovereignty of the States is a clear violation of the United Nations Charter and the principles of the International Law, which stipulates on equality and respect for national sovereignty and such legislations could lead to negative and adverse effects worldwide as well as the acceleration towards applying the principle of reciprocity in treatment that may provoke the disastrous spread of chaos and lack of confidence in the world. This contradicts our keenness in our seeking to enjoy a world characterized with cooperation, confidence-building and collective efforts to maintain international peace and security.

Excellencies and Highnesses.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

The UAE emphasizes the need for the Forum to continue its contribution in facing these challenges and addressing their effects through the promotion of a comprehensive dialogue between the Forum countries and by the development of partnerships with other international groups and international organizations. This should be carried out through a clear action plan and in accordance with the agreed foundations so as to ensure the greatest possible integration among countries in the region as well as enhance their competitiveness in various fields, so that eventually lead to sustainable development in its three dimensions of: economic, social and environmental.

In this context, we need to promote mutual trade, investment and remove barriers that affect the members of the Asian Dialogue countries as well as taking into consideration the protection of mutual investment, strengthening regional investment, facilitate joint economic activities and promote communication between peoples and participate in the exchange of information, expertise and experiences in various economic fields, including the knowledge economy, information technology as well as communication, tourism, health, education and innovation, all kinds of renewable and clean energy, food security, water and encourage initiatives in order to ensure and facilitate the convergence and communication between our countries to achieve sustainable economic prosperity and growth in the Asian continent.

In this area, my country has been and still providing support to the international efforts towards offering aid, humanitarian and developmental assistance all over the world.

I would also like to point out that according to a report by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the UAE in 2015 was among the three largest donors of official development assistance (ODA) compared to its gross national income (GNI). The UAE development aid for the year 2015 amounted to nearly 16.12 billion dirhams with a rate of 1.09% of UAE Gross National Income (GNI).

Excellences and Highnesses.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

The UAE is exerting and utilizing great efforts in order to contribute with the international community in addressing the implications of climate change and the reduction of the severe harmful effects of this phenomenon. We in the UAE believe that the deployment of projects and renewable energy solutions contribute to achieving this goal, as well as providing a range of benefits that include meeting the growing demand for energy and stimulate economic and social growth.

In the framework of activating our role in the field of energy, food security and water; the UAE welcomes hosting the 15th Ministerial Meeting of the ACD Forum in Abu Dhabi from 16-17 January 2017, which will be carried out and coincide with the activities of Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week 2017, which is an ideal platform for dialogue and international cooperation on discussing key issues and solutions in many sectors such as: clean energy, water, environment and food and water security."

In addition to the Fifth Ministerial Meeting, Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week - which enjoys a great global interest will include also a series of events that will form an important addition to the efforts of the Forum countries in achieving sustainable development, including: the World Future Energy Summit, the International Water Summit (IWS), Economic Forum and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) workshop as well as the meetings of the General Assembly of (IRENA).

We are pleased - from this Platform- to invite your countries to actively participate in the events and activities of Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week 2017 and benefit of the golden opportunities to meet and exchange ideas, experiences and expertise with a large crowd of leaders, policy-makers, decision-makers and experts in the relevant fields.

At last, I reiterate and confirm my country's appreciation for the great efforts of the friendly Kingdom of Thailand and its initiative in creating this dialogue as a platform to discuss the cooperation between our countries. I also extend our sincere gratitude to His Excellency the Secretary-General for his tireless efforts in promoting Asian cooperation among its members and wish all success to the works of this summit in order to ensure the achievement of our visions and aspirations. We confirm and stress that we will work through our chairing of the Forum next year to continue to work towards more cooperation between the countries of the Forum and enhance its role in achieving sustainable development along with the aspirations of our peoples and generations to come in a sustainable future full of peace and prosperity.

Thank you!