Thailand Written Statement on
Agenda 34.1 Progress Report – I: Plan of action on climate change and health in small island developing states (decision WHA72(10) (2019))

Thailand notes a good progress in small island developing States although there is uneven progress among States in terms of technical, financial capacity and levels of support. We would like to propose two recommendations.

Firstly, the ongoing collaboration between WHO and the Green Climate Fund should be accelerated. We believe that this collaboration mechanism with active engagement will support small island developing States in developing National Adaptation Plan as a framework for implementation of the plan of action on climate change and health. This will accelerate progress towards achieving the targets. In addition, climate change country profiles are also useful for gap analysis and developing problem management solutions according to the country differences.

Secondly, we agree with the expansion of the plan to further address related health priorities of small island developing States, including noncommunicable diseases, nutrition, integrated primary health care and achievement of universal health coverage. However, these priorities are not adequate. Small island developing States are also at risk of water sanitation and hygiene (WASH) issues due to limited water resources accessibility and additional risk from climate change impacts, particularly tropical cyclone and others extreme weather events. We would like to highlight that these priorities should be included for further support to increase access to safe WASH in particular for vulnerable groups including children and elderly.