Statement

by

Delegation of Thailand to the United Nations

before the Second Committee

of the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

Agenda Item 19: Sustainable Development

New York, 4 November 2013

Please check against delivery

Building Bridges for Partnership

THAILAND

ASEAN Candidate for the UN Security Council 2017 – 2018
Mr. Chairman,

Thailand wishes to associate itself with the statements made by Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and of Indonesia on behalf of Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). We would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his reports under this agenda item.

Mr. Chairman,

Thailand strongly believes that sustainable development should be the paradigm for future development agenda. While economic growth remains indispensable to eradication of poverty and prosperity of nations, social inclusivity and environment protection must also be part of the policy equation.

In Thailand’s opinion, sustainable development should be integrated seamlessly into post-2015 development agenda. To achieve this objective, Thailand believes that Member States, together with all relevant stakeholders including civil society, must continue to engage with one another to implement a comprehensive and transformative agenda that will be beneficial to all.

Thailand welcomes the establishment of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). Such establishment already provides Member States with a renewed sense of enthusiasm and importance that we attached to sustainable development. Thailand sincerely hopes that the HLPF will become a universal forum that helps generate a sustained political will of Member States necessary for the success of the deliberation and implementation of sustainable development.

Mr. Chairman,

Being a member of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, Thailand hopes to contribute constructively to the consideration and the delineation of the SDGs. Let me underline a few priorities that Thailand hopes to see being incorporated into the SDGs.

First, a universal and comprehensive goal on water. This goal should encompass various aspects of water, including access to clean drinking water and sanitation, resilience to water related disaster, integrated water resources management as well as international cooperation on water related issues.
Second, **health, especially Universal Health Coverage (UHC)**. Thailand has been devising and implementing UHC scheme and incorporated it as part of our national people-centred development policy. Thailand has witnessed the benefits of this inclusive scheme in improving quality of life of the Thai people. In this regard, we would like to see this ambitious scheme to be incorporated into a global development goal and agenda.

Third, **the rule of law**. Thailand believes that the rule of law and development are inextricably connected and mutually reinforcing. In this regard, we wish to foster a just and strong society upon which sustained growth and development can be built.

Lastly, Thailand attaches utmost importance to **the viable means of implementation**. We welcome the establishment of Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Financing. We hope that the Committee can share its preliminary consideration with the Open Working Group on SDGs at the early stage, so that the OWG could integrate financing aspect into our drafting of the SDGs.

I thank you.

****************
