Mr. Moderator,

I wish to express my delegation’s appreciation to the PGA for organizing this thematic debate and to the Secretary-General for his valuable report on human security, his third on this issue.

I also thank the Deputy Secretary General for his address and all the distinguished panelists for their excellent presentations.

My delegation fully supports and aligns itself with the statement made by the Permanent Representative of Slovenia on behalf of the Human Security Network.

Others have touched upon the broad application of human security approach to enrich and inform the discussion on the post-2015 development agenda. Building on the presentation of the Chair of the Advisory Board on Human Security, let me share with you one example of Thailand’s specific experience on human security and development. I refer to the recently concluded project sponsored by the UN Trust Fund for Human Security (Dec 2013).
The UN Joint Programme on Integrated Highland Livelihood Development in Mae Hong Son, province in northern Thailand was a joint development project implemented by various UN and Thai agencies in the rural areas of Mae Hong Son, along the Thai-Myanmar border. Its objectives are to address a number of livelihood challenges faced by the vulnerable groups including poverty and limited access to quality education and health services.

Through a combination of top-down protection measures and bottom-up empowerment initiatives, including enhancing income generating skills, training on sustainable management of natural resources as well as increasing opportunities and access to health care and education, there have been much improvement in the lives of the villagers since the launch of the programme in 2010. For instance, the villagers have utilized their newly learned skills to increase their income in a more sustainable way; health volunteers from the community have been trained and deployed; there is also much better access to information and communications material.

A number of valuable lessons learned can be drawn as well as replicated and applied elsewhere. One key lesson is that the engagement of local actors, in particular the local government, is a major contributing factor to the success of any development project. Local authorities are important links between the specific needs of the local population and national development policy.

Finally, the human security approach provides a useful framework to help define the post-2015 development agenda. By putting people at the centre of the discussion, we can ensure that the development goals and targets to be formulated under this process will be inclusive, equitable and leave no one behind.

I thank you Mr. Moderator.