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Mr. Chair,

Let me begin by commending the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)'s active role in its technical cooperation activities as stated in the Secretary-General report. Member States have benefited greatly from the support provided by UNODC in their efforts to counter transnational organized crime, corruption and terrorism, as well as crime prevention and reinforcing criminal justice systems, thus strengthening the rule of law.

Thailand also wishes to welcome UNODC’s Regional Programme for Southeast Asia which will be the first plan of activities for the region. Thailand looks forward to enhancing our cooperation with UNODC in implementing the regional programme in the years to come.

Mr. Chair,

While the cross-cutting nature of the rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice and development has become more apparent, it is crucial to address interrelationship among global issues and how crime prevention and criminal justice and the rule of law fit in a broader context of development.

The advancement of the rule of law is essential for sustainable economic and social development. Individuals would be able to realize their full development potential when they are free from fear and from violence. The effective and equitable application of justice is, therefore, a precondition for a modern participative society and the rule of law is often the condition of responsible governance. In addition, lack of human rights and equality, corrupt or ineffective governing institutions and weak justice systems often hinder the ability of states to achieve functioning political systems and promote long-term economic growth and stability for countries and their prospective regions.

Mr. Chair,

Cognizant of the above, Thailand has tabled a resolution entitled "The rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice in the UN development agenda beyond 2015" at the 22nd session of the CCPCJ. The resolution was subsequently adopted by the ECOSOC and will be considered for adoption by the Third Committee in the coming days. We hope that the resolution will contribute to the formation of the post-2015 development agenda which underlines this cross-cutting nature of the rule of law, crime prevention and sustainable development.
Furthermore, to supplement international vision for post-2015, in November this year, Thailand will host the Bangkok Dialogue on the Rule of Law: “Investing in the Rule of Law for the post-2015 UN Development Agenda.” This dialogue is aimed at fostering constructive discussion on the mutual correlation between the rule of law and sustainable development contributing to the global process. We hope that the dialogue would further contribute and promote integration of the rule of law at the national and international levels.

In addition to our contribution to integrate crime prevention in the discussion of the post-2015 development agenda, as a member of the CCPCJ Thailand is committed to issues related to women and children. To ensure effective implementations of the related CCPCJ resolutions, we have offered to host 2 intergovernmental experts groups meetings in Thailand. The first expert group meeting will be held in February 2014 on the model strategies and practical measures on the elimination of violence against children in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. The second will be held in May 2014 on actions against femicide. Experts will discuss ways to more effectively prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish gender-related killing of women and girls.

Here, at the 68th UNGA, Thailand, together with Austria and Argentina will be hosting a High-level Panel discussion on “Taking Action against the Gender-related Killings of Women and Girls” on 18 October. Thailand hereby cordially invites all Third Committee delegates to attend this side event.

Mr. Chair,

With regards to our national effort in combating crime, Thailand is pleased to announce that we have recently ratified the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime or UNTOC and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children. HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol of Thailand who has spearheaded Thailand's ratifications of these instruments and enactment of the relevant national law, will graciously deposit the instruments of ratifications of UNTOC and its Protocol with the United Nations next week.

Mr. Chair,

On narcotic drugs, my delegation wishes to thank UNODC for its comprehensive report on the international cooperation against the world drug
problem. The report illustrates clearly that the emerging issues such as the emerging issues such as new psychoactive substances are significant challenges and require our greater attention.

Thailand continues to promote the work on sustainable alternative development alongside enhancing cooperation on law enforcement. One important benefit of sustainable alternative development is the ability for such programmes to be mainstreamed into the overall developmental agenda in an attempt to address root causes, which include poverty and the lack of opportunities.

We therefore welcome that, for the first time, a set of guiding principles on alternative development has been formulated and approved by the latest sessions of the CND and ECOSOC. The draft resolution on this issue, which is to be soon considered for adoption by the Third Committee, reaffirms that any development-oriented drug policy and programme should be undertaken in accordance with the MDGs and should also take into account the specific situation of a country and region including security concerns. Member States are encouraged to explore such principles and consider them as a reference or as part of a concerted strategy for development.

Mr. Chair,

For us, it is clear that the challenges posed by drugs and crime continue to adversely affect the enabling environment for achieving development agenda including the MDGs and beyond. Therefore, cooperation among and between the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and other human rights and development mechanisms is of crucial importance.

Thank you.