Statement by
His Excellency Mr. Norachit Sinhaseni
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand
to the United Nations

at the General Debate of the Second Committee
of the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

10 October 2013
United Nations, New York

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Mr. Chairman,

Since I am taking the floor for the first time, allow me to congratulate you on your election of the Chair of the Second Committee, and through you to the members of the Bureau. We are confident that, under your guidance and leadership, the work of this Committee will be fruitful and lead to a successful conclusion. You can be assured of my delegation’s full support and cooperation during the deliberations of this Committee.

Thailand aligns itself with the statements delivered by Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and by Indonesia on behalf of ASEAN.

1. Development

Mr. Chairman,

Thailand attaches great importance to the ongoing discussion and deliberation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. We strongly believe that it must build upon the lessons learned from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) while taking into account the evolving global architecture and non-traditional challenges. Poverty eradication must remain the overarching goal. In this connection, Thailand agrees with the core message of the UNSG’s Report “A Life of Dignity for All” that a renewed sense of urgency and greater efforts are needed in order to eradicate poverty.

With regard to sustainable development, its long-term goal should not aim at only balancing the inter-linkages of the three pillars of sustainable development, but also integrating all three dimensions of sustainable development so that it responds to the need of people at all levels. In this regard, Thailand welcomes the establishment of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) and hopes that the HLPF will help put sustainable development up high on the international agenda.

As a contribution to this initiative, in August this year the Government of Thailand hosted the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Dialogue: From Millennium Development Goals to the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015. We hope that outcome document “The Bangkok Declaration”, which highlights the views of Member States from the Asia-Pacific region, will contribute to the ongoing intergovernmental processes on this important issue.

2. Macroeconomic policy and global governance

Mr. Chairman,

While the global economy is on a path of slow but steady recovery, it continues to face challenges on several fronts with adverse impacts on the fulfillment of the MDGs. Thailand firmly believes that economic stability, sustained and inclusive economic growth as well as job creation can constructively and sustainably lead to poverty eradication.
The severity of the financial crisis, the global recession, and its aftermath have led to clashes over market access as well as rise in national trade barriers. This serves to remind us of the need to lay a stronger foundation for a renewed global economy by ensuring open, fair, and inclusive international monetary, financial and trading systems. This is fundamental for any global economic recovery, sustainable development and inclusive economic growth.

The United Nations and its affiliated agencies, in cooperation with all stakeholders, must play a central role in enhancing international economic governance and cooperation. They must offer alternative and constructive policy perspectives to deal with governance and economic policy challenges. The international community needs to build a more conducive environment for greater market access to LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS. We must ensure that the upcoming Bali conference in December 2013 will result in a satisfactory conclusion to the Doha Round. During the same conference, Thailand will announce our participation in the Duty Free, Quota Free initiative for LDCs.

3. Food security

Mr. Chairman,

To successfully eradicate hunger and poverty, food productivity needs to be sustainably increased, food market access must be enhanced on a transparent, free, fair and open basis through sustainable investment in infrastructure, irrigation system, promotion of agricultural industries and technological advancement.

Moreover, given the complexity of the issue of food security, especially when coupled with demographic and climate change, global economic crisis and environmental degradation, food security must be approached in a comprehensive and sustainable manner. My delegation is of the view that Member States should encourage a more sustainable food production and consumption pattern as well as addressing the uncertainty of the food market through the existing mechanism such as the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS).

4. Climate change and Disaster Risk Reduction

Mr. Chairman,

Many countries have witnessed the effect of climate change and how development efforts and gains can be instantly wiped out by natural disasters. Their Member States need to pay more attention to both climate change and disaster risk reductions in order to reduce vulnerabilities, manage disaster risks, build resilience, as well as raise public awareness. We should make full use of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2005-2015) as well as encourage the inclusion of disaster risk reduction in the Post-2015 Development Agenda and Sustainable Development. Next June Thailand and the UNISDR will host the 6th Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (ACMDRR) in Bangkok. The Conference will be a timely opportunity for countries in the Asia-Pacific region to exchange views and put forward recommendations regarding the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.
With regard to climate change, Thailand is committed to a climate-resilient society policy and will continue to work with the international community to mitigate climate change. We support the deliberation of this issue under UNFCCC’s framework as well as the future Climate Summit, which is scheduled to take place in 2014. Effective cooperation and political commitments are needed if we are to successfully deal with these challenges.

5. Information and communication technology

Mr. Chairman,

Advancement in technology has played important part in shaping and interconnecting the world we live in today. Science, technology, and innovation (STI) and information and communication technologies (ICTs) have become one of the challenging issues of development. The need to narrow the digital divide is central to Thailand’s national development policy. This includes forging universal access to public services and expanding viable implementations to all sectors. We believe that the Connect Asia-Pacific Summit and the ITU Telecom World to be held in Bangkok this November will provide an opportunity to foster partnership and strengthen collaboration in these fields.

6. South-South and triangular cooperation

Mr. Chairman,

Amidst these myriad challenges, long-term sustainable development is not possible without people-centred development. We have placed people as the core and country’s most valuable assets of development. We are striving to ensure that “no one is left behind”. Human resources development in capacity building, technical assistance, and science and technologies transfer at all levels, provides a firm basis of sustainable development. Thailand sees South-South and Triangular cooperation as complimentary to North-South cooperation. We are embarking on forging development partnership with other developing countries on the basis of mutual benefits and placing a strong emphasis on national ownership.

Mr. Chairman,

In moving forward the agenda of this Second Committee and to achieve our goal of inclusive, equitable, and sustainable development, all of us must work together in the spirit of compromise. You can be assured that such will be how my delegation approaches the work.

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