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

at Plenary
of the 69th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

Joint Debate

Agenda Item 62 (a) and (b): NEPAD : progress in implementation and international support
Agenda Item 12: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries,
Particularly in Africa
New York, 17 October 2014

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Mr. President,

Thailand aligns itself with the statement delivered earlier by the distinguished Permanent Representative of Myanmar on behalf of ASEAN on this agenda item.

Thailand thanks the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report entitled New Partnership for Africa’s Development: twelfth consolidated progress report on implementation and international support.

Mr. President,

Thailand commends our African brothers and sisters for their tireless efforts to transform Africa to a Hopeful Continent. Africa is a continent with enormous potentials and innumerable opportunities for its people. NEPAD, as well as other regional initiatives, has greatly contributed to such success and progress towards achieving the MDGs in many African countries.

Despite remarkable progress, Africa continues to face a number of persistent and emerging challenges. Challenges such as political and armed conflicts, terrorism, climate change, epidemics, poverty and famine. We must together ensure that such challenges will not undo past success nor hinder the future of Africa.

As the Secretary-General stated in his report, the year 2015 is fast approaching and enormous effort is needed to push forward towards the attainment of the MDGs in Africa. Through collective efforts and solidarity commitment from the international community such goals can be met. Thailand stands ready to support our African brothers and sisters.

Mr. President,

Thailand is committed to fostering long term strategic partnership with Africa. In 2013, we launched the Thai-African Partnership Initiative, one of our most important foreign policy agenda. This Partnership Initiative is based on three main pillars, namely development, economic, and global affairs cooperation.

Thailand welcomes the formulation of the Africa Union’s Agenda 2063 Vision and Priorities and the Common African Position (CAP) on the post 2015 Development Agenda. Such a Vision and Priorities fits well with our Thai-Africa Initiative to formulate and coordinate policy direction towards mutually beneficial areas of cooperation.

Agriculture: As the Secretary-General stated in his report, agriculture is the key to Africa’s transformation. With 2014 being the Year of Agriculture and Food Security, the Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency (TICA) has implemented in Africa a number of agricultural-related projects. They range from development of mushroom growing in Swaziland to rice
cultivation in Mozambique, small scale fishery in Madagascar and Mozambique to the upgrading of laboratory for hatchery operations in Senegal.

We stress the exchange of know-hows on sustainable agricultural development and food processing with our African partners. These projects will help increase productivity and enable Africa to be more self-reliant and ease the food insecurity concerns as recommended in the Secretary-General’s report.

Public Health: Thailand is active in our cooperation on health issues with Africa through expertise sharing. Our cooperation focuses on the strengthening of human resource capacity in the prevention and treatment of serious epidemics and community-based public health management.

Thailand has also supported and co-sponsored the Resolution: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa, with special emphasis on universal and equitable access to treatment and medication.

In addition to supporting this resolution, Thailand stands ready to share our experiences and lessons learned in developing Universal Health Coverage. This is to help African countries put in place a medical service system with universal access and financial risk protection for all their people.

The health and welfare of our African brothers and sisters are our concern especially those currently facing the EBOLA crisis. Thailand has so far contributed 152,900 US dollar to WHO to provide rice to help relieve the food shortage crisis facing the people in Ebola affected areas.

Thailand will continue our support of humanitarian assistance from government and private sectors for Africa to fight the epidemic

Education and Human Capital Development: We believe that economic growth, sustainable development and long-term peace and security go hand in hand. And they can be achieved only through the development of human capital. Thailand therefore gives high priority to this important area of cooperation through the provision of scholarships for higher education and fellowships for training, in areas where our expertise could be of value to Africa.

We sincerely hope that our development cooperation, under various frameworks, whether bilateral, trilateral, multilateral or South-South cooperation, will contribute to progress in Africa.

Mr. President,

During the General Debate in this very hall last month, many African leaders called on the international community to recognize and respond to Africa’s development priorities in the post 2015 Development Agenda. We take this opportunity to repeat their calls and echo their voices.
Mr. President,

Peace and development in Africa matters not only within the continent but beyond. The maintenance of peace and sustaining development in Africa should therefore be the shared responsibilities of the international community as well as the African countries.

Thailand commends the contributions of the African Union, ECOWAS and other regional organizations as well as the United Nations in addressing these two critical issues. In the spirit of solidarity, Thailand has joined global efforts in the maintenance of peace and security in Africa by participating in UN peacekeeping missions in the Sudan and in Liberia.

Thailand remains committed to strengthening our global partnership for development in Africa and stands ready to share our experiences and best practices in areas that our African brothers and sisters see fit.

In conclusion, Mr. President, my delegation pays tribute to the late Nelson Mandela, the revered statesman of South Africa, and other unsung African heroes who have courageously fought for freedom, peace and the betterment of the African people and thus the world at large.

Thank you, Mr. President.