Statement by

the Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations

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Building Bridges for Partnership
THAILAND
ASEAN Candidate for the UN Security Council 2017 – 2018
Mr. Chairman,

The Delegation of Thailand wishes to associate itself with the statement of the Group of 77 and China as well as the joint statement of ASEAN delivered by the distinguished representative of Malaysia.

The year 2013 is yet another difficult year for developing countries in the midst of current global economic woes which continues to hamper required growth and development in developing countries. Although the world economy is picking up pace and is on the path of recovery, the international community must continue to take prudent steps towards efficient and pro-growth economic policies.

We must continue and intensify our efforts towards forging a coherent and inclusive development vision in our economic policies, as well as strive towards enhancing the effectiveness of global economic governance.

*International trade and development*

International trade is an important catalyst for development. Thailand believes that greater openness to international trade will significantly promote economic growth and enhance people’s quality of life. A rule-based, transparent, non-discriminatory, open and inclusive multilateral trading system can promote sustainable and inclusive growth. This can domestically create jobs and uplift the quality of lives of citizens in developing and developed world. International trade must therefore be incorporated in the debate of post – 2015 development agenda. In order to achieve sustainable and inclusive development, it is necessary for us to continue our support for close coordination and consultation between key international trade – related institutions, particularly UNCTAD, WTO and ITC.

This is why my delegation looks forward to the successful conclusion of the Doha Round negotiation. We firmly believe that the multilateral approach towards trade negotiation can prevent the threat of protectionism as well as generate a fair and reliable trading system, capable of being a vital instrument for poverty alleviation and increase prosperity.

My delegation also wishes to reaffirm Thailand’s strong commitment and support in ensuring that the outcome of the Ninth WTO Ministerial Conference (MC9) is successfully delivered under the Bali package in December 2013. We urge all countries to show greater flexibility and call for strong political will and leadership.

*International Financial System and Development*

The lessons learned from the financial and economic crisis as we have witnessed, is that there are real economic spillover effects from neighbouring countries. Therefore, global cooperation, in our view, is the best approach to prevent such possible consequences. We can learn from each other, coordinate our policies in order to tackle these global challenges and set a path towards a sustainable future.

My delegation believes it is necessary to enhance coherence and consistency of the international financial system in order to prevent future financial and economic crises. Financial institutions should be more accountable and financial regulators should have incentives to identify arising telltale signs even before they become problems. Particular focus should be given to crisis-responsiveness, system stability and transparency. It is in this sense, representation and voting rights of developing countries in International Financial Institutions (IFIs) are crucial as we strive to support more inclusive development.

In this regard, Thailand reiterates our conviction that the UN can play a central role in global economic governance issues. With its extensive knowledge and experience, UNCTAD can facilitate our efforts to tackle these global challenges. UNCTAD has an important role to play in the promotion of substantive knowledge and guidelines to achieve global economic
governance and greater integration of developing countries into the world economy. It can be a forum to promote policy convergence as well as offering alternative and constructive policy perspectives, capacity building and provide technical assistance.

In addition, Thailand commends the UN's effort to foster coordination between the UN and the G-20, bridging the missing gaps in international cooperation, to effectively deal with the global economic crisis while ensuring sustainable economic growth.

External debt sustainability and development

Foreign borrowing is an important resource needed to facilitate sustainable economic growth. But we often witnessed low-income countries struggling with their external debt. Poor external debt management can and is often the reason for financial and economic instability.

Ensuring debt sustainability deserves to be placed high on international financing for development agenda. Thailand supports the formulation of equitable, comprehensive and fair solutions to reduce the burden of external debt while enabling borrowing countries to make progress towards achieving the MDGs. We commend various debt relief efforts such as the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative, the Multilateral Relief Initiatives (MDRI) and UNCTAD's Debt Management and Financial Analysis (DMFAS) programme. We also encourage responsible sovereign borrowing and lending practices in order to prevent vindictive consequences.

Commodities

Commodities price volatility together with increased speculation in commodities investment can cause serious problems for commodity-dependent countries. Problems arising from dependency on a limited number of export commodities need to be addressed in an appropriate manner. Predictable income is very crucial for commodity-dependent countries in order to escape the dependence cycle.

We believe that the formulation of a long-term policy at the international level to address structural problems of commodities is required. The international community must work together to explore trade-related policies and instruments as well as technical cooperation to support the commodity-dependent countries. Thailand welcomes various initiatives to address the impact of excessive price volatility and encourages policy action in response to market uncertainty such as the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS), the High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis, the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme and the Zero Hunger Challenge.

Mr. Chairman,

In closing, allow me to reiterate that Thailand will continue to work with the UN and the international community on the issue of global economy. We look forward to the deliberations of this meeting which would reinvigorate our efforts in overcoming the common challenges that lie ahead.

Thank you.