General Statement of
Mr. Chaikasem Nitisiri
Minister of Justice of Thailand
At High-Level Segment of the Fifty-Seven Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs
Agenda 4: Progress achieved and challenges in implementing the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem
On 14 March 2014
At Boardroom B, Vienna International Center
Vienna, Republic of Austria

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Thai Delegation allow me to join other delegations in congratulating you, Mr. Chairman, for your able leadership in conducting this important event. I would also like to express our appreciation to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for convening this High Level Segment which gives Member States an opportunity to review the progress achieved and difficulties met in their efforts to reaching the goals and targets set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly in 2009 which Thailand fully supports. It is indeed my pleasure and honor to attend this important meeting.

Mr. Chairman,

Thailand has been actively taking her role in implementing the action plans and measures laid out by relevant United Nations General Assembly resolutions as well as other approaches stipulated in the three UN Conventions that Thailand has ratified. Moreover, at regional level, Thailand along with fellow ASEAN countries are also redoubling our efforts to achieve the ASEAN Drug-Free initiative by 2015.

Nevertheless, the current drug situation in Thailand remains a cause of concern as the threat to the well-being of society and individuals. Methamphetamine in a tablet form or “Yaba” continues to be a major drug abuse, followed by crystallized Methamphetamine. Other concerned issues in the recent years also include the diversion of legal precursor chemicals to illicit production of drug and the complexity of drug trade related organized crimes.
The Thai Government has therefore put the fight against narcotic drugs as one of the top priorities on Thailand's national agenda. Our national strategy is implemented on the principle that "addicts are patients who are in need of treatment while traffickers are those who must be punished under the judicial process". In this regards, we therefore strives to develop appropriate legal instruments for drug users or dependents especially young people.

Mr. Chairman,

The Royal Thai Government has worked relentlessly in dealing with drug problems in the country by using national drug control strategy called "Kingdom's Unity for Victory over Drugs". As a result, large quantities of illicit drugs have been seized and large numbers of drug offenders have been arrested. The Thai public has been satisfied with the results of the Government’s national drug control policy.

However, major obstacles remain. Among others are the large production of illicit drugs in neighboring countries as well as a high volume of domestic demand. In the late 2012, the Government redoubled its effort by launching additional strategy called "Safe Communities for Families Reunion" in order to intensify our drug control efforts in communities and villages nationwide. The focus has been in the areas where drug trafficking and epidemic are concentrated in order to arrest and prosecute local drug dealers and traffickers while local drug abusers are treated in drug treatment programme. This attempt is aimed at cutting the drug supply and reducing the drug demand in the country.

Cross border cooperation and precursor-chemical control are also significant drug interception channels along the border areas. We aim to enhance cooperation at various ports of entry as well as the full utilization of laws and related measures including the use of drug profiling techniques. This includes pursuing further investigations, tracing and repatriating assets, imposing tax regulations, and being on alert for new kinds of illegal drugs and substances.

Along with supply reduction, Thailand places high priority on drug prevention. Our main strategy is to tackle the right vulnerable target groups, among them students and general public, by conducting a wide range of drug abuse prevention activities and campaigns nationwide. At the same time, we strongly advocate for shaping the drug use prevention strategy based on scientific evidence, paying particular attention to individuals and groups at risk. We believe that as a core component of a successful drug control system, prevention based on evidence-based approach is the best cost-effective strategy.
Thailand also believes that sustainable alternative development could contribute to solving the world drug problem. The success of it is based very much on market access and participation of all stakeholders especially at local level. Thailand would like to take this opportunity once again to thank Member States for the support of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development which was adopted by the General Assembly last December. The crucial step is now on its implementation. We hope that the UN Guiding Principles on Alternative Development will serve as effective guidelines for alternative development programme as well as sustainability of social and economic development. Thailand stands ready to share our experiences on AD with other interested countries and stakeholders. Indeed, we have proposed to host an international seminar workshop on implementing the UN Guiding Principles later this year.

In terms of treatment and rehabilitation, we encourage drug dependents to voluntarily undergo treatment programmes especially for ATS abusers. The Government also tries to improve treatment standard to ensure effectiveness and sufficiency of treatment access as well as effective aftercare services with a view to sustainably reduce the numbers of drug addicts. Such aftercare services are provided to assist them to reintegrate into their communities. With a high volume of ATS abusers in our region, we would like to encourage Member States and UNODC to seek for appropriate and quality treatment model for ATS abusers as well as information sharing and research studies which would be very much helpful in this regard.

Other form of cooperation especially judicial cooperation including mutual legal assistance and harmonization of laws is also crucial. We need to ensure that criminals will not be able to use loopholes of incompatibility of legal systems for their benefit.

Mr. Chairman,

Apart from the national drug strategy, Thailand has also actively cooperated with other countries and international organizations on drug control for more than forty years leading to the development and improvement of numerous mechanisms, both bilaterally and multilaterally. I wish to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Royal Thai Government, to express our gratitude for the kind supports received from our partners including UNODC, INCB, other Member States, especially our neighboring friends in the region.

Partnership is crucial for drug control work which requires collaborative approach and sustainability. One notable cooperation is among countries within the Greater Mekong subregion. Together with the other six parties to the 1993 Memorandum of Understanding on Drug Control between countries of the Greater Mekong subregion and UNODC, Thailand has worked
tirelessly to promote the cooperation as a concrete platform to counter the threats posed by illicit drug manufacturing, trafficking and use in the subregion. At the same time, we have introduced an initial self-reliance policy for our neighboring countries for greater sustainability.

Thailand wishes to take this opportunity to reaffirm our support to UNODC, especially in implementing the newly established Regional Programme for Southeast Asian and the Pacific Region as well as other global platforms.

Mr. Chairman,

The drug menace is and will still be a global threat. To fight against it remains a common and shared responsibility which requires effective and increased international cooperation in an integrated, multidisciplinary and balanced manner. We must carry on this political momentum beyond this meeting room and the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action to achieve what we have set out to do. Thailand would like to reiterate its commitment in this endeavor and I wish you all a fruitful discussion and successful outcome.

Thank you.

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หมายเหตุ : Time Slot ระหว่างเวลา 10.00 – 10.30 สำหรับหัวข้อประเทศไทย
Thailand, Ukraine, Czech Republic, India และ Yemen