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58th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)

**Statement of
Thailand Representative**

On Agenda Item 3: General Debate on the Special Session of the General Assembly on the World Drug Problem to be held in 2016

**On 9 March 2015, 10.30 – 18.00 hrs.
Plenary Hall, M-Building, Vienna International Center
Vienna, Republic of Austria**

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

As it is the first time that my delegation takes the floor, allow me to congratulate you for your election as Chairman of the UNGASS Preparation Board. Under your able leadership and skillful management, I trust that you will guide us through to the achievement of this important event.

Mr. Chairman,

Thailand joins the other CND member states in underlining the importance of the Special Session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem as a milestone towards our goals and target date in 2019 as set in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action. Thailand pledges its full support for the successful organization of the UNGASS and encourages CND member states to assist UNODC in moving this process forward.

The world drug problem remains a common and shared responsibility for all of us. It continues to pose a serious threat to health, safety and well-being of our people and undermine socio-economic and political stability and sustainable development. Thailand opines that the problem should be addressed in an integrated, multidisciplinary, balanced and comprehensive approach to supply and demand reduction strategies as well as international cooperation. We thus look forward to the interactive discussions during this Special Session which will touch on these key issues.

Mr. Chairman,

Thailand views that partnership is crucial for sustainable drug control cooperation and programmes. The UNGASS will be an excellent venue to take stock of different approaches, best practices, and lessons learned of different regions in enhancing concrete partnership.

In our case, twenty years of partnership between six countries in the Greater Mekong sub-region and UNODC under the 1993 Memorandum of Understanding on Drug Control has proved as a salient example of concrete achievement. To further enhance regional anti-drug partnership, Thailand has initiated a number of activities. We recently hosted a special meeting on Precursor Control among Cambodia, China, India, Korea, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam in order to strengthen our interception measures and prevention of diversion of precursors to illicit manufacture of drugs. As we all know, no precursors - no drugs.

Moreover, Thailand established a Narcotics Cooperation Center as a platform for information sharing and a command center for joint operations among ASEAN member states. Other initiatives have been launched to enhance regional cooperation including the Safe Mekong project – an initiation to a joint operation along Mekong River among Thailand, Myanmar, Lao PDR and China as well as the Airport Interdiction Task Force among ASEAN countries.

Mr. Chairman,

It is evident that development and drugs mitigation are highly interlinked. To sustainably reduce the supply and drug problems, we need to tackle the root cause, namely poverty, through development programmes including infrastructures and other basic needs. In this regard, Thailand is pleased that the UN General Assembly at its 68th session adopted the UN Guiding Principles on Alternative Development. We are delighted that alternative development will be one of the main topics for discussion at the UNGASS where all stakeholders' representatives, be the relevant governments, developments agencies, international organizations and civil society organizations will be presented and shared views.

Thailand pledges our strong commitment and willingness to share our best practices and experiences on alternative development with other member countries, particularly, those most affected by the plantation of illicit crops as

well as other interested stakeholders. Thailand will host an International Conference on Alternative Development in November this year with an aim to further encourage the implementation of the Guiding Principles. We would like to invite all member states and interested countries to be part of this special event.

Lastly, I would like to express our appreciation to the UNODC once again for convening this Special Segment which provides member states an opportunity to review the progress achieved and difficulties faced in their efforts to reach the goals and targets set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly in 2009 which Thailand fully supports.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.
