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Plenary on Items 4 and 8:
**Interdependence: Towards new patterns in global growth
and
Development strategies in a globalized world: Growing
domestic and regional demand for balanced and sustainable
growth**

Speaker: Thailand

Tuesday, 17 September 2013

*Not checked against delivery **

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Statement by
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Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United
Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva
Item 4 (Interdependence: Towards new patterns in global growth) and Item 8
(Development strategies in a Globalized World: Growing domestic and regional
demand for balanced and sustainable growth),
Tuesday, 17 September 2013 at 10.00 hrs
Palais des Nations, Geneva

Text: around 434 words

Mr. Chairman,
Secretary-General,
Distinguished Colleagues,

First of all, my delegation would like to align itself with the statements made by Ecuador on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and by Iraq on behalf of the Asian Group. In addition to the remarks made therein, my delegation would like to add the following comments.

The topics to be discussed this afternoon are fundamental to sustainable growth and development. Thailand learnt about the interdependence of economies the hard way during the Asian Economic Crisis of 1997 where the domino effect sent the once “tiger economies” of ASEAN countries tumbling one after another. Though the effects of that crisis are now all in the distant past, the lesson learnt are still very much in our minds.

While being an active part of the international market is important, economies which rely too much on export for creating wealth can become susceptible to uncertainties from external sources. As this year’s TDB Report suggests, government policies creating domestic and regional demand is a way of achieving long-term development strategies. In 2001, the Royal Thai Government initiated the One Tambon (or Sub-District) One Product policy. Under the scheme, the Government would support and market one locally made product from each Sub-District throughout the country. This re-branding of the already existing and excellent local produce created great domestic demand of Thai products, stimulating the domestic economy as well as encouraging long-term export.

However, sustainable growth and development are inherently linked to other non-economic factors. Thailand would like to underline the following as crucial considerations for achieving that goal.

First, we need to address various forms of inequality that persists all over the world. All stakeholders, including women, girls, people with disability, and vulnerable groups should be empowered to have input in shaping sustainable development.

Second, Thailand believes that good health care is key to sustainable development. For this reason, we have expanded our Universal Health Coverage which will help address health inequalities and boost inclusive development.

Third, hard-won development gains can be wiped out overnight by increasingly common large-scale natural disasters. Therefore, disaster risk reduction and preparedness should be properly addressed as part of the development framework.

Fourth, development cannot be achieved if people are not granted opportunities to develop their full potential. The rule of law must prevail. Good governance ensures accountability, transparency and equality. It also guarantees human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Mr. Chairman,

Lastly, I would like to leave you with our belief in inclusive development. We must ensure that no one is left behind in our development strategies.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.