UNCTAD E-Commerce Week Open Consultation on the Aid for e-Trade Initiative 21 April 2016 Room XXIII, Palais des Nations Geneva, Switzerland

Statement by Ms. Jirawan Boonperm, Electronic Transactions Development Agency (ETDA), Thailand

• Thank you Madame Chairperson, first of all, I would like to express my congratulations and appreciation to UNCTAD to organize this consultation forum and I am very glad to be part of this event.

• Thailand would like to strongly support the initiative on Aid for e-Trade as mentioned in the Draft Call for Action. The Thai Government has set a clear national policy and strategic plan on digital economy for social and economic development with the ultimate goal to enhance country's competitive advantage and to raise the quality of life of our people.

• To this policy, Electronic Transactions Development Agency or ETDA a public organization under Ministry of ICT which was set up in 2011 will have to take the leading roles on enhancing soft infrastructure for e-transaction including law, cybersecurity and related standards, as well as, to collect and disseminate e-transaction statistics in various aspect.

• Moreover, ASEAN economic community or AEC has just been implemented since December 31st, 2015 with its milestone to promote economic integration in ASEAN.

• As such, ASEAN countries including Thailand have a lot of work to do especially on e-Trade and e-Commerce development both at national and regional level.

• When ETDA was improving the methodology to collect data on value of e-Commerce in the country in 2015, we had received a lot of support from UNCTAD and we found that the assistance was very beneficial to our work. Therefore, we believe that the initiative on Aid for e-Trade through effective collaboration among all partners will also help offer more effective support to our work in Thailand and in ASEAN on e-Trade and e-Commerce development.

• Thank you.