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Plenary on Item 11b:
Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people

Speaker: Thailand

Tuesday, 24 September 2013

*Not checked against delivery **

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Statement by
Delegation of the Kingdom of Thailand
Item 11 (b) Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian
People
Tuesday, 24 September 2013 at 10.00 hrs
Palais des Nations, Geneva

Time Limit: 3.5 Minutes

Text: around 380 words

Mr. President,

My delegation aligns itself with the statements made by the Group of 77 and China, and by the Asian Group.

Additionally, we wish to put on record our support for UNCTAD's activities in Palestine to achieve sustainable development and commend the Report on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people for its detailed and thorough analysis on the latest economic situation there. We are concerned by the Report's observations that there remain many obstacles which need to be resolved, such as the high cost of production and the gradual isolation from external markets.

Here, Thailand supports the Group's position of providing as much aid as possible to Palestine. We also urge all parties concerned to ensure an atmosphere that is conducive to direct negotiations between Palestine and Israel so as to achieve a permanent and peaceful solution to the conflict so that the two peoples can live side by side in peace and security.

For our part, Thailand established diplomatic relations with Palestine on 1 August 2012, and supported the UNGA resolution in November 2012 to upgrade the status of Palestine to become a Non-Member Observer State of the UN. In June this year, the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent a delegation to Ramallah—the first official visit by a Thai delegation after the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries. There, we met with various Palestinian agencies to discuss how Thailand could help enhance Palestine's state-building and capacity-building in areas in which we have expertise, such as agriculture, economic and social development and capacity-building.

In addition, we have been working with Japan and Palestine on a trilateral basis to enhance state-building capacity for Palestinian development. Indeed, earlier this month, Thailand and Japan co-hosted the Aid Coordination Meeting under the framework of the Conference of East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development (CEAPAD)—a coordinated effort with nine other East Asian countries.

Since 1978, Thailand has also contributed towards the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

Mr. President,

I wish to end my statement by underlining our commitment to aiding Palestine by working with our partners in any way that we can and in response to the needs and requirements of the Palestinian people.

Thank you.