



VIENNA CHAPTER

THAILAND'S STATEMENT DURING THE HANDOVER CEREMONY OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE VIENNA CHAPTER OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA

11 FEBRUARY 2016

at 10.00 hours

Mr. Chair, DG Li of UNIDO, DG Amano of IAEA, Executive Secretary Zerbo of CTBTO, and Deputy Executive Director Lale-Demoz of UNODC,

At the outset, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the outgoing Chair, Ambassador Armin Andereya of Chile, and his able team for their tireless efforts and dedication during the past year in leading the Group's Vienna Chapter. Their great work has been well-recognized and significantly benefited the Group's entire membership.

My appreciation also goes to the Group's coordinators and task force leaders in all UN organs in Vienna in 2015. They all carried out their responsibilities with professionalism, efficiency and effectiveness in support of the Chilean chairmanship.

Over the past year, we have seen a further strengthening of partnerships within the Group, with all UN bodies in Vienna, and with others Member States outside the Group.

As a group, I believe we have made our voice matter in many areas. To name a few, such as peaceful uses of nuclear energy, promoting an internationally accepted norm against nuclear testing, combatting narcotic drugs and transnational organized crimes, advocating good governance and rule of law, promoting sustainable industrial development.

Mr. Chair,

After looking back at our past success, Thailand also looks forward to our future with great confidence. We are very pleased to extend our warm congratulations to Ambassador Simon Madjumo Maruta of Namibia, for assuming the chairmanship of the Group's Vienna Chapter in 2016.

With your leadership, diplomatic skills and vast experiences, Thailand is confident that you and your able team will effectively protect and promote the interests of the Group, solidify the Group's unity, and carry on the excellent work done by the previous Chair.

My delegation would like to take this opportunity to reassure you of our full support and cooperation, especially in strengthening collaboration and coordination with other chapters of the group.

This is something Thailand, as current chair of the Group in New York, will strive to do.

I also wish to inform the Group through you Mr. Chair that our chairmanship this year will operate under the theme “From Vision to Action: Inclusive Partnership for Sustainable Development”.

Among the priority issues that will be pursued are:

First, effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development through inclusive development and active involvement by all stakeholders. We will draw upon good practices among Member States on how to proceed on the development path.

Thailand is also ready to share our experiences and practices of Sufficiency Economy Philosophy as a growth and development model to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Secondly, promotion of South-South cooperation. We are committed to working with all members to enhance capacities in tackling common emerging challenges and revitalize the global partnerships for sustainable development. A High-Level Panel of Eminent Personalities of the South on South-South Cooperation will be held next month in Bangkok.

Third, we will aim to build resilience in response to the impact of climate change and to reduce the risks of disasters in an effective and timely manner, taking into consideration the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and the capacity of each country.

Mr. Chair, having said this we realize that our work would not be possible without strengthening coordination and collaboration among the different chapters of the Group.

Discussions of how to ensure that the interests and concerns of the Group are comprehensively addressed through better collaboration among different chapters will be a main feature at the upcoming Annual Meeting of the Chairmen / Coordinators of the G77 Chapters on 11th of March in Bangkok. Invitations will be communicated to you soon, Mr. Chair.

I thank you, Mr. Chair _____