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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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Statement

by

His Excellency Mr. Norachit Sinhaseni

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand

to the United Nations

before the Sixth Committee

of the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

**Agenda Item 85: The rule of law at the national and
international levels**

New York, 9 October 2013

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Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, my delegation wishes to align itself with the statements delivered this morning by the distinguished Representative of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the distinguished Representative of Lao PDR on behalf of ASEAN

Thailand commends the tireless efforts of the United Nations in promoting the rule of law. We would like to thank the Secretary General for his report “Strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities”, providing us with comprehensive and useful information on what has transpired at the United Nations over the past year. The Secretary General in his report urges Member States, international organizations and civil society to establish a collective goal of upholding the highest standard of the rule of law. My delegation warmly welcomes the adoption of the Declaration on the Rule of Law at the national and international levels, as it has played a vital role in setting norms for international relations. We also commend and support the efforts by the UN Rule of Law Unit in establishing an online platform to serve as a follow-up mechanism for voluntary pledges made during the High-Level Meeting last year, as well as the unit’s efforts in assisting Member States to deliver on their pledges.

Mr. Chairman,

Thailand firmly believes that the rule of law accords predictability and legitimacy to the actions of States and strengthens their sovereign equality before the law. In particular, methods and procedures of dispute settlement spelled out in the UN Charter as well as the contribution of the international courts and tribunals in strengthening the rule of law all contribute to the peaceful coexistence among States and the prevention of international disputes from escalating into conflict.

The International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, if utilized, can peacefully resolve conflicts and help restore peaceful relations between parties to disputes. Here, I wish to reaffirm Thailand’s full respect and commitment to consistently maintain the lasting peace as set forth in the 1962 Judgment of the Court, so that the rule of law prevails.

Mr. Chairman,

Thailand attaches great importance to harmonizing our domestic laws with international norms and standards as well as their effective implementation. In this connection, Thailand has recently ratified and next week will be depositing our instrument of ratification of the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. This we believe will further enhance the effectiveness of our criminal justice system and serve to further harmonize our domestic laws with international legal standards.

Mr. Chair,

I am pleased to announce that Thailand will be hosting the 2nd Assembly of Parties to International Anti-Corruption Academy Agreement this December. This is yet another example of Thailand’s firm commitment to the fight against corruption. We are of course disappointed that United Nations Regional Course for international law in the Asia Pacific region which was scheduled to be

held this year had to be postponed due to lack of adequate funding. So allow me to reiterate once again Thailand's readiness to continue cooperating with the United Nations in hosting the Regional Courses for international law in the Asia Pacific region in Thailand during 2014 -2015.

We also pledge to promote comprehensive understanding and appreciation of the rule of law with a view to contributing to the maintenance of international peace and security. The recently established Thailand Institute of Justice actively promotes the culture of justice and the rule of law in accordance with United Nations standards and norms on criminal justice and human rights among ASEAN member countries and beyond.

Mr. Chairman,

The rule of law is essential in overcoming any differences and in promoting cooperation and development for the common prosperity of the region and the world. We therefore fully support mainstreaming the rule of law into the post-2015 development agenda. With this in mind, the Royal Thai Government will be hosting next month the "Bangkok Dialogue on the Rule of Law : Investing in the Rule of Law, Justice and Security for the Post-2015 Development Agenda." We believe that dialogue among political leaders, United Nations officials, academic and civil society can help build momentum for more inclusive and equitable development and subsequently will contribute substantively to the deliberations of the post-2015 development agendas.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, let me reaffirm Thailand's firm conviction that the rule of law is a prerequisite for peace, security, human rights and development of States and international community. We are determined to work together with other member states, international organizations and other partners to further promote the rule of law.

However, before I conclude, Mr. Chair, in a statement by one of our neighbors this afternoon, reference was made to Southern Thailand. Let me make it amply clear that the situation in Southern Thailand is a domestic matter and can in no way be termed as international dispute, let alone an international situation.

Thank you.
