

**Statement by
H.E. Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai
Deputy Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand
at the 29th Annual Meeting
of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77
22 September 2005, New York**

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to express my delegation's appreciation for Jamaica's chairmanship of the Group of 77 and for convening this Annual Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs. I would also like to congratulate the Chairman-elect of the Group of 77 for the year 2006. I am privileged to be a part of this important gathering once again after attending our Second Summit in Doha last June.

Mr. Chairman, the tasks, the missions and the responsibilities of our Group will require continued reinforcing and further strengthening of our joint efforts so long as poverty is not yet history.

With the Doha Declaration, the Doha Plan of action, the MDGs and the Outcome Document, our Group of 77 is filled with a wide range of hundreds and thousands of words well-intended to achieve poverty alleviation. But our peoples in Asia, in Africa and in Latin America are not waiting for all those words. They are waiting for the actions and implementation.

They are waiting for the day they live their life with human dignity without hunger, without starvation and without malnutrition. They are waiting for the day they live their life with basic human necessities that bring them dignity. They are waiting for the day they have clean water and enough food, adequate medical care, reasonable roof over their head and decent clothes over their body for themselves and for their children. They are waiting for the day they can earn income sufficient to provide themselves with these fundamental human needs.

Efforts to make poverty history and development sustainable must involve global partnership at all levels to bring about these necessities required for human dignity. Allow me to go through some of them very briefly.

First at the level of the United Nations. The UN must be truly a world citizen-centred on development issues. All UN agencies must weave together the strength of their network for all citizens of the world and respond to their diverse requirements. Coordination between agencies themselves and between agencies and the people on the ground must be the rule, not the exception. We must bring about real partnership for development with the UN system.

Secondly, the North-South and South-South partnership. Poverty alleviation and sustainable development require the North-South as much as the South-South cooperation. Developing countries require external assistance as much as self-help. The countries in the South can leapfrog by learning and sharing experiences with each other in order to follow the path of success and not to be trapped in the path of failure. A free and fair trade system under WTO will enable the countries in the South to help themselves and stand on their own feet. This is something the North can do as much as pledging aids, ODA and debt relief.

Thirdly, a domestic tripartite partnership. A true partnership between the

government, the people and the business/private sector can be an important contributory factor to sustainable development. The people can provide workforce, the government brings access to capital and the private sector offers ideas and market initiatives. This is a formula for success of a self-sufficient income-generating projects.

Fourth, reinforced regional and multilateral partnership. Partnership between neighbours, partnership within and between subregions, partnership within and between regions, and regional partnership with the UN system bring trust, confidence, shared aspiration and real action to the development process.

Thailand is not the only country that believes in creating these levels of partnership for poverty alleviation and sustainable development. But we have had the experiences of putting them into practice with people-centred approach. Therefore, we will do our utmost to share our experiences and work with all our friends to bring about the world-citizen centred sustainable development. We will do our utmost to work with the United Nations to put the world-citizen centred development and its implementation an important agenda of the UN reform.

With the process of the reform starting, we must do our utmost so that the reform will ensure that all our development agenda shall become something done and not something pledged. The MDGs must leave mass hunger, starvation, and poverty to be found only in the history book of mankind.

Thank you.