

**Statement by Her Royal Highness Princess Bajrakitiyabha
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Thailand to
the United Nations Industrial Development Organization
and Head of the Thai Delegation
at the 40th Session of the Industrial Development Board
20-22 November 2012**

Agenda Item 8: Review of the progress of the deliberations of the informal working group on the future, including programmes and resources, of UNIDO

Mr. President, thank you for allowing me to take the floor.

At the outset, I would like to join other distinguished delegates in congratulating you on your election as the President of the Fortieth Session of the Industrial Development Board of UNIDO, and through you, I would also like to welcome the other members of your bureau. I trust that under your able Chairmanship, we will achieve fruitful and successful conclusions to this meeting. Please be assured of the full cooperation of my delegation to assist you in this endeavor. I also would like to thank Ambassador Cho, the outgoing President, for his excellent work.

Thailand associates itself with the statements of the Group of 77 and China and of the Asia-Pacific Group. We also take this opportunity to commend and express our appreciation to Dr. Kandeh Yumkella for his active, effective and dedicated leadership of UNIDO and wish him all the best in his forthcoming new position. Thailand also congratulates Peru for hosting the next General Conference and looks forward to participating in it.

Mr. President,

My delegation takes note of the document IDB.40/10 and wishes to commend the Co-Chairs of the informal working group on the future, including programmes and resources, of UNIDO for their efforts in enhancing the deliberations of UNIDO activities among the interested Member States based on the SWOT analysis. Also, my appreciation is extended to the Secretariat for providing background information through briefings on the mandate and work of UNIDO to facilitate the deliberations.

Mr. President,

Taking into consideration the increasing need for developing countries to pursue sustainable industrial development due to global challenges, my delegation strongly believes that the effort to realign the future work of UNIDO through the informal working group platform to effectively address those challenges and needs is extremely crucial and timely. In this respect, I would like to share some views with the Board on the future framework of UNIDO's work that are of particular interest to Thailand.

Based on the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development or Rio+20 Conference in 2012, the importance and utility of a set of sustainable development goals (SDGs) was recognized and supported to be integrated in the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015 in order to pick up where the Millennium Development Goals left off. In this regard, Thailand expects UNIDO to take an active role in addressing the areas where UNIDO has comparative advantage for the achievement of sustainable industrial development.

With regards to energy and the environment, we are of the view that UNIDO should focus on the promotion of innovative products development, environmentally sound production technology, energy savings, as well as usage of renewable energy in industries.

In this respect, I am pleased to inform that Thailand attaches great importance to the green economy and a number of measures have been taken to realizing this policy. The promotion of green industry, Eco Industrial Towns, industrial energy

efficiency, cleaner production technology are among the core initiatives in driving the country toward industrial development sustainability.

In March 2011, Thailand, through the Ministry of Industry in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UNIDO, jointly organized a seminar entitled "Gearing toward Eco-industrial Towns : Thailand's Direction and Experiences from Japan and Other Countries" with the objective to create awareness among Thai entrepreneurs of treating sustainability as a goal for improving competencies. In this regard, we would like to express our appreciation to UNIDO and the Government of Japan in providing speakers to share with us experiences of various countries and knowledge in this field. We encourage UNIDO to continue its focus on energy and the environment for sustainable industrial development.

Mr. President,

Thailand values South-South cooperation as an effective mechanism, and a complement to North-South cooperation, for developing countries to benefit from each other through the exchange and sharing of best practices and experiences in industrial development. We, thus, encourage UNIDO to sustain this programme component in its future work.

In this regard, my delegation commends UNIDO for its active role in promoting South-South cooperation and wishes to thank the UNIDO Centre for South-South cooperation in China (UCSSIC) and the Chinese Government in providing technical cooperation to Thailand for the study visit in the field of logistics and supply chain development for agro industry in Fujian Province in May 2011 as well as for the organization of the First Sino-Thai Symposium of Rubber Industry in Nanning in the same year. We are of the view that UNIDO should sustain this South-South cooperation framework as one of its future programmes and even intensify its efforts to promote the use of existing UCSSICs to the fullest.

Furthermore, Thailand, in cooperation with UNIDO, is now implementing a project entitled "Overcoming Policy, Market and Technological Barriers to Support Technological Innovation and South-South Technology Transfer: the Pilot Case of Ethanol Production from Cassava." The objective of the project is to transfer the production technology of Ethanol bio-fuel from cassava to our ASEAN neighbours – Vietnam, Laos, and Myanmar. The project started in April this year and is financially supported by the Global Environment Facility.

Last but not least, Mr. President,

The economic downturn in most parts of the world as well as the worldwide embrace of sustainable development have prompted the necessity and urgency for developing countries to devise its national industrialization strategies and policies in a well-integrated and sustainable manner not only in order to strive for economic growth without negatively affecting the global environment and finite natural resources, but also to cushion the threats from losing their competitiveness in the global marketplace.

From this perspective, my delegation is of the view that since UNIDO has well-established expertise in providing advisory services on industrial policy to developing countries, we expect that this important activity will remain one of the Organization's key programmes.

Thank you.
