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**Statement by H.E. Mr. Narong Sasitorn,
Deputy Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Thailand
Head of the Delegation of Thailand,
at the meeting between the OSCE Troika and Asian Partners for Cooperation,
5 December 2013 at 15.45 hrs.
Meeting Room South, International Exhibition Center, Kyiv, Ukraine**

**Mr. Chairman,
Secretary-General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Colleagues,**

First, I would like to thank the Government of Ukraine for the warm hospitality extended to me and my delegation.

I wish to express Thailand's appreciation to Ireland for your active role as the current Chair of the Asian Contact Group.

Mr. Chairman,

Thailand is proud to represent the ASEAN in the OSCE. We believe that the OSCE and the **ASEAN Regional Forum, or the ARF**, which is the main regional security mechanism, share common goals and are pursuing similar objectives.

Since its inauguration in Bangkok in 1994, the ARF has taken up various security-related matters under the Confidence Building Measures, be they disaster relief, counter terrorism and transnational crimes, maritime security or non-proliferation and disarmament. But we believe that the ARF can do more to respond to emerging security challenges in the region. We look to the OSCE's vast experience – especially in preventive diplomacy – to see how best we can apply it to our region.

ASEAN is also making good progress in becoming a Community in 2015 with three mutually reinforcing pillars similar to those of the OSCE, namely political-security, economic, and socio-cultural communities. It also continues to play a central role in promoting security in our region.

For example, on the South China Sea issue, Thailand, as **country coordinator of the ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations**, has made good progress in building trust and promoting constructive dialogues between China and ASEAN Member States. Both sides have agreed to engage in the first official consultation on the Code of Conduct (COC) which would help promote confidence-building, manage incidents when they occur, as well as create a conducive environment for the peaceful settlement of disputes.

Mr. Chairman,

Thailand places great importance on the **human dimension of security**. We have worked in cooperation with countries and various stakeholders on this matter in various fora and at all levels.

In this regard, we wish to congratulate Australia for the successful organization of the “OSCE-Australia Conference on Improving the Security of Women and Girls” earlier this year. Thailand was pleased to have the opportunity to exchange views and ideas on this very important matter.

Also, we would like to congratulate the OSCE on its decade of Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, and commend our Ukrainian Chair for further advancing the OSCE’s efforts in this area.

Efforts to combat **human trafficking** are high on our national agenda and Thailand stands ready to cooperate with the international community on this matter. Indeed, we have already cooperated with the OSCE in this field for over a decade when we hosted the first of our 4 major conferences in collaboration with the OSCE in which human trafficking was one of the important issues discussed.

Mr. Chairman,

Democracy and the rule of law are indeed prerequisites for human security as well as sustainable development.

Last month, Thailand had the opportunity to highlight the importance of the rule of law through the hosting of the Bangkok Dialogue on the Rule of Law, presided by Her Royal Highness Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol, Thailand’s Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN in Vienna and the OSCE. The meeting served as a platform for further discussions on this concept and how this important principle can be integrated into the international development agenda.

Another example of our contribution to the OSCE and its Partners is our **engagement with Afghanistan**. We believe that social and economic developments in Afghanistan are fundamental to the country’s long-term security. We have developed training programmes in such areas as sufficiency economy and agricultural development for substituted crops in the high-plain areas. The Integrated Karakul Sheep Bank programme has been successfully implemented by Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency (TICA) in Balkh province in Northern Afghanistan since 2008. We are ready to continue this capacity building programme for Afghanistan.

Mr. Chairman,

Thailand strongly believes that the OSCE and the ARF share common objectives and face common challenges. It should be in our mutual benefit to explore forward looking cooperation. **Closer partnership between our two regions** is more needed now than ever.

Last year, the accession of Mongolia, who, like us, used to be an OSCE Partner for Co-operation, has inspired Thailand to consider elevating our relations with the OSCE. **We are currently undertaking the necessary steps to advance our relations with the OSCE.** We hope to count on your kind support in this endeavor.

Lastly, I wish to congratulate Switzerland as the incoming Chairman-in-Office. Thailand stands ready to render our full support to you, the OSCE and other Partners to strengthen our co-operation in 2014 and the years to come.

Thank you.
