

**PERMANENT MISSION OF THAILAND
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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Statement

Mr. Ittiporn Boonpracong

**Representative of Thailand To the CSD 13
at the High-level Segment**

"Turning Political Commitments into Actions"

New York, 20 April 2005

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Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, and the members of the bureau on your election, and for the excellent conduct of this important meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development since the beginning of the session last week.

I also wish to associate my delegation with the statement made by the Honourable Minister of Water and housing of Jamaica, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. Chairman,

Thailand is fully committed to the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (**WSSD**), in particular the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI). Immediately after the WSSD, we made our first step of turning political commitments into actions by establishing the National Committee on Sustainable Development, chaired by **the Prime Minister, to serve as an impetus in the implementation of the JPOI, which places a primary focus at the national level.**

To follow up on our commitments, several plans and policies have been developed and put into actions. The Thai Government has adopted **a pro-poor approach** in all policies and actions in an attempt to achieve and sustain the wellbeing of our people in **both urban and rural areas. On water and sanitation, Thailand has adopted and implemented the IWRM** concept since 1997. The new legislation on water resources, based on basin management approach, is also being drafted and expected to be effective soon. Currently, we have attained high level of access to safe drinking water as well as sanitation services and facilities. The MDG target 10 has been achieved. However, waste management, both municipal and industrial, still remains one of our challenges.

On human settlements, many programs such as land tenure security, slum upgrading as well as low cost housing and housing for the poor with long term mortgage plan have been implemented, partly on the basis of public and private partnership.

Mr. Chairman,

Thailand fully supports the two-year work cycle of the Commission. We are of the view that this two-year work cycle will provide an opportunity for assessing the progress and identifying challenges and success stories in the implementation of JPOI in the review year, as well as for developing policy responses to the output from the review year.

Thailand attaches great importance to the participation of all stakeholders and encourages more involvement of all Major Groups in the CSD process. Thailand also

supports the role of the CSD in monitoring, evaluating and reporting the progress of partnership activities. In our view, the monitoring mechanism of the commitment of support, both financial and technical, should be included in the arrangement of the follow-up.

Thailand is of the view that in making progress towards the achievement of MDGs targets in water, sanitation and human settlement, the domestic efforts are essential, but not enough. We therefore wish to call on the international community to increase and continue its support to developing countries, especially for the Least Developed Countries, in the implementation of their WSSD commitments. Such supports may include financial assistance, transfer of technology and capacity building. In this connection, the importance of national priorities, specificities, circumstances, conditions and legal frameworks must be recognised and emphasised. To be successfully implemented, policy options and measures require space for adjustment. The "one size fit all" approach is no longer a sensible solution in this regard.

Mr. Chairman,

To further complement our efforts on these three important issues, there is a need to look into the other aspects that are interrelated and interlinked to our efforts, for example, changing consumption and production patterns, and protecting natural resource base of economic and social development as well as raising environmental awareness by integrating these issues as part of the primary education program. Partnership in an exchange of best practices is also essential in our view. On our part, Thailand stands ready to share its experiences and practices on water, sanitation and human settlement with other countries, through the UN agencies concerned, such as the UNEP and UN-HABITAT, as well as the other sub-regional bodies, such as the Mekong River Commission (MRC) whose work also focuses on the IWRM.

Mr. Chairman,

Finally, my delegation wishes to express our full support and cooperation in this endeavour to make the outcome of the CSD 13 a true and concrete contribution to the Millennium Review summit this coming September. Our people deserve to live their lives free from want, far from worries *and* in full dignity without any delay.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.