

**Statement by the Permanent Mission of Thailand to the UN**

**on behalf of Thailand and Viet Nam**

**at the 11th Session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals**

**Focus area 16: Peaceful and inclusive societies, rule of law and capable institutions**

**9 May 2014**

**Conference Room 1, Conference Building, UNHQ**

Mr. Co-Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf Viet Nam, and my own country, Thailand.

As regards Focus Area 16, we attach importance to the rule of law, capable institutions and peaceful and inclusive societies and the need to address these issues to achieve sustainable development. We stress also the critical importance of the maintenance of international peace and security in sustainable development, as recognized in the Rio+20 document paragraph 8.

Mr. Co-Chair,

Thailand and Viet Nam support the following targets under the **Creating peaceful and inclusive societies as follows:**

- **target a) by 2030 reduce by x% crime and violence.** However, as violence against children remains a serious issue of international concern, and continues to violate development and fundamental rights of children, a more focused attention should be given to violence against children. Therefore, Thailand and Viet Nam would like to propose a **separate target to ensure that children live a life free from violence.**

- **target b)** we propose to rephrase the target so that it would read: “by 2030 implement laws and policies to promote equity and empower vulnerable groups”.

- We strongly support **target d) by 2020 provide information and education on a culture of non-violence.**

Mr. Co-Chair,

In regard to the rule of law and capable institutions, Thailand and Viet Nam support:

- **target a) by 2030 develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels, and target c) provide public services for all, including legal identity.**

We would like to rephrase **target e)** to read “by 2030 fight corruption in all its forms and decrease illicit financial flows”.

**On target f)** we understand that freedom of media is essential to good governance and accountability, and thus conducive to sustainable development. We stress the need to ensure that role of media can best serve the interests of governments and peoples. Therefore, we feel that the term “unnecessary restrictions” may seem arbitrary and may cause practical issues of implementation. Thus, we would propose to amend this item to read “**promote freedom of media, association and speech in accordance with national laws and applicable international treaties**”.

Thank you.

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