Statement by H.E. Sihasak Phuangketkeow,
Permanent Representative of Thailand to the UN Office in Geneva
For Panel Discussion on the Right to Development, 14 September 2011

Madame President

Thailand would like to thank Madame High Commissioner for her thoughtful statement and for activities carried out by her office to promote the realization of the right to development as well as to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development.

We also thank all panelists for their ideas and proposals which have enriched our deliberation today.

Madame President,

Thailand supports the statement made earlier by Egypt on behalf of NAM.

After two and a half decades of unwavering political commitment, it is important that in the next decades we turn the right to development into concrete actions.

Efforts must be taken at national level. Effective development policies must be put in place to promote sustainable growth and social justice, fair distribution, inclusive participation as well as respect for human rights at the same time. People must be put at the centre of any development strategies.

These core principles of the right to development have been fully integrated into the National Economic and Social Development Plans of Thailand. From pure growth-driven policy envisaged in our first national development plan in 1960s, our policies now have shifted towards right-based and human-centered approach to development.

[Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, both individual and collective rights, and ensuring people’s participation in public decision making formed the backbone of the 2007 Constitution. The newly elected government is also committed to promoting fair income distribution, social welfare and justice, people empowerment and environmental conservation – for the ultimate goal of sustainable development and enhanced livelihood and well-being of our people.]

Madame President,

Despite efforts on the part of individual States, the challenge that we face is the need to enhance reforms of present structure of global economic governance so that the voice, the legitimate interests and concerns of developing countries
which constitutes the majority of the world population, be heard and heeded especially in the major international financial institutions and global forum whose decision have far-reaching impacts on the economics of developing countries.

In addition, we call on all States, developed and developing alike, to support the **reinvigoration of the development agenda** in all areas of international agenda, including international trade, aid, debt, access to medicines, transfer of technology, environment, climate change and intellectual property rights, in order to create a favorable environment for the realization of the right to development, for developing and least developed countries.

**Global partnership for development** must also be promoted, through meaningful and inclusive dialogue and cooperation among relevant actors, including UN agencies, regional organizations, development agencies, multilateral financial, trade and development institutions and private sectors, including civil society.

Madame President,

On a final note, while we join others in calling for developed partners to fulfill its commitment in providing ODA to developing and least developed countries, the provision of development assistance should not be confined to North-South cooperation. South-South and triangular cooperation should also be promoted particularly in the areas where emerging economies and developing countries can share their experiences and expertise to help each other in their efforts to face various challenges.

Thank you.