

**Statement by
H.E. Mr. Thani Thongphakdi
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand to
the United Nations Office and other International
Organizations in Geneva
at the Ceremony of the Hand-over of the Chairmanship of
the Group of 77 and China,
Thursday, 17 January 2013 at 15.00 hrs
Palais des Nations, Geneva**

Your Excellency Ambassador Wibowo of Indonesia,
Secretary-General Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi,
Mr. Martin Khor, Executive Director of the South Centre,
Distinguished Colleagues,

I wish to express Thailand's appreciation and congratulations to Indonesia, under the leadership of Ambassador Djani and Ambassador Wibowo, whose work as Chair has steered the Group into new territories. In particular, we commend Indonesia's skills in balancing the interests of member countries at UNCTAD XIII, especially the interests of developing countries, and also with regard to the consideration of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit.

As a fellow ASEAN colleague, Thailand is proud of your leadership, and trust that you will retain a key role even after you complete your term as Chairman. We wish to also thank Indonesia for its continued support throughout Thailand's Chairmanship of the G77 PrepCom during UNCTAD XIII.

Looking ahead, though, I am comforted by the fact that Ambassador Wibowo will be succeeded by Ambassador Miguel Carbo Benites of Ecuador. As the former Vice-Chairman of the Group of G77 and China, he is eminently well qualified and has our full confidence and support. I congratulate him and look forward very much to working with him in the coming year.

Mr. Chairman,

I believe we accomplished much last year, with UNCTAD XIII behind us and with the Doha Mandate in our hands. I am confident that the forthcoming inter-governmental sessions throughout this year will maintain the momentum and be exceptionally fruitful in view of the results of the Conference.

Next year, 2014, will be a landmark year for UNCTAD and for the Group of G77 and China, as it is the year we celebrate the 50th anniversary of both. This occasion will give us the opportunity to look forward to the future, and into what needs to be done. Here, I am certain that UNCTAD will play a crucial role in paving the way towards the post-2015 development agenda.

Lastly, Mr. Chairman, I wish to underline Thailand's commitment to UNCTAD. We have always been an active member, and will continue to participate fully under Ambassador Benites' leadership.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.