



THE GROUP OF 77

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Statement by H.E. Mr. Ittiporn Boonpracong,
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to the Republic of Kenya,
and the Permanent Representative to UNEP, UN-HABITAT, and UNON
on assumption of chairmanship of the Group of 77 and China at Nairobi for the year 2014
(UNON, Nairobi, 30 January 2014)

Excellency, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Brazil,

Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives,

Dear colleagues of the members of the Group of 77 and China,

It is my greatest honour and pleasure to be here today with all of you, my distinguished and dear colleagues of Group of 77 and China at Nairobi, the group that is known to have always been working together to make sure that the voices of developing countries are heard and our spirits are upheld in the world of diversity, driven by multi-faceted interests.

Please allow me to begin by asking you all to join me in conveying our gratitude to Brazil for her leadership, dedication and outstanding performance as Chair of G77 and China for two consecutive years. Contribution by Brazil has been highly appreciated. And I am certain that her support to the Group will continue.

Today as Thailand is being handed over the chairmanship of Group of 77 and China from Brazil, the world has changed in a number of ways - particularly for developing nations. Yet the founding mission of the G77 is as valid as ever. The Group of 77 was founded in 1964 to collectively boost the role and influence of developing countries on the global stage, to provide the means for member countries to articulate and promote their collective economic interests and enhance their joint negotiating capacity on all major international economic issues within



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the United Nations system. In taking on that momentous role, we commit our country to honouring the objectives set by our founding fathers.

With that in mind, I am deeply honoured to be entrusted with the opportunity and responsibility to take up this important and challenging role, and to work with all of you in our continuing efforts to achieve our common aspiration and goals, especially during the year 2014 in which many important events will take place and their outcome will have important bearings on the future of the humanity.

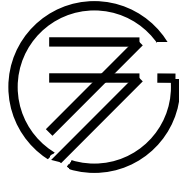
As sustainable development has become a catchword in every forum around the world, it is still difficult and debatable for one to define what it exactly means and to accurately identify equitable ways to achieve it. Having said that, as the Group of 77 and China is now no longer 77 in number but with 133 member countries, I therefore believe that, with our strength and solidarity, the Group can echo the loudest voice from the perspectives of developing countries towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and playing a leading role in charting the direction of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Dear colleagues,

At this point, allow me to outline three aspects which Thailand regards as important when it comes to sustainable development.

Firstly, it is our belief that the three pillars of sustainable development, namely inclusive economic growth, social development, and environmental protection, will need to be further promoted and strengthened.

Secondly, sustainable consumption and production form a critical element of sustainable development, and therefore, should inclusively be promoted, along with the development of



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a 10-Year Framework Programme. In doing so, we support technology transfer and financial cooperation with regard to specific needs and conditions of developing countries, and

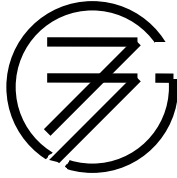
Thirdly, we recognize that people must be placed at the center of sustainable development, and the well-being of generations to come must not be compromised. It is, therefore, our hope to see enhancing constructive roles of member countries of G77 and China in extending the South-South cooperation as well as triangular cooperation, in addition to traditional North-South cooperation, in dealing with challenges of the globalization. Technical cooperation and capacity building, in this regard, are key to the people-centric sustainable development.

Moving on from sustainable development, allow me to highlight only a few of the significant work that lies ahead of us this year. The first and the most immediate one is the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP which will be held this June in the city of our Chapter. The outcome of this meeting will set the direction of the global environmental agenda as well as pave the way for more constructive engagement with all stakeholders.

In the meantime, well planned and developed cities, including through integrated planning and management approaches, can promote economically, socially and environmentally sustainable societies. That is why in my view, preparation for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development or HABITAT III, to be held in 2016, has to begin now.

Excellencies, and dear colleagues,

As the Chair of the Group, I would like to reaffirm my commitment, determination and dedication to facilitate the views and interests of all member countries to achieve the common benefit of the G77 and China.



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Now let me end by saying that the progress of the G77 and China does not rest upon who takes the role of the chairmanship, but on active participation and contribution of all members. We shall work together for the better tomorrow.

Thank you very much.
