

PERMANENT MISSION OF THAILAND

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Madam President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentleman,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you, Madam President, and the Kingdom of Bahrain, upon your assumption of the office of the President of the 61st Session of the General Assembly. As a woman myself, I welcome your election with great pride and wish to assure you of my delegation's full support in any possible way.

I also wish to express my delegation's profound appreciation to President Jan Eliasson, your predecessor, for his hard work and dedication in advancing the United Nations reform agenda over the past year

I wish to also take this opportunity to welcome the Republic of Montenegro as a new member of the United Nations.

Madam President,

I am speaking at a time when Thailand is going through critical times – a transition, following the military intervention, to a needed reform process to strengthen our democracy in both its form and content.

We will continue our active role in ASEAN and in the Asia Cooperation Dialogue. We will also continue to promote ACMECS, a sub-regional and self-reliant collective effort at speeding up regional integration, and BIMSTEC, an organization devoted to

promoting economic growth in the ten sub-continent of South Asia and

Madam President,

One of the most effective measures for prevention of armed conflicts is development. Thailand is encouraged that the theme of the general debate this year "Implementing a Global Partnership for Development" echoes the immediate need to ensure that development goals are achieved and that this achievement rests firmly on a global partnership. Developed countries need to honour their commitments, particularly in their official development assistance to developing countries and least developed countries.

Sustainable development is, however, not about aid. In fact, it is about trade and opportunity. Developing countries must not be denied an opportunity to trade themselves out of poverty. The suspension of the Doha Round dealt a serious setback to hopes for a true partnership between the developed and developing worlds. A global partnership for development must ensure win-win conditions for the rich and the poor alike. We must redouble our efforts to ensure that development does not

become a casualty of domestic interests.

Global partnership is also not limited to relationships across States. The United

work of regional commissions and organizations should feed into the work of the United Nations at its Headquarters in such a way that maximize their synergies.

Madam President,

2005 **Commission on Economic and Social Development** **World Summit**

Madam President,

Finally, it would not be completed to end this statement without paying a tribute to Secretary-General Kofi Annan for his decade of hard work and dedication serving in this most impossible job in the world and for his entire career of serving the humanity. This Secretary-General's shoes will be enormously large to fill in. Anyone who is elected to serve in this seat will have full agenda on his hands in ensuring that multilateralism works effectively and that the United Nations remains relevant.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) comprising Brunei
Daruussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines

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Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, has endorsed and supported the candidature of Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, from Thailand, to carry on the work of Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

Dr. Surakiart's vast backgrounds in government, business as well as in the academic world, will enrich the work of the Organization. As someone from a developing