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Statement

by

Mr. Narong Suwanapiam

Deputy Secretary-General, NCB

Head of Thai Delegation

Agenda : General Debate

Mr. Chairman,

First of all, may I extend to you, on behalf of the Thai Delegation, my sincere congratulations on your election as the Chairman of this Fortieth Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. My congratulation^{ions} also go to all members of the bureau on the election to the office. I believe that, under your guidance, this Fortieth Session of the Commission will be successful in its deliberations.

Mr. Chairman,

I believe that everybody here ⁽⁵⁾ are well aware that illicit drug-related activities are problems that plague every sector of the world. Thailand, similar to other countries, greatly suffers from the costs posed by the whole cycle of illicit drug activities. Its limited resources which should be used for the development of the nation are depleted to ^{solve} fix the problems of illicit drug demand and drug supply. The illicit drug business~~es~~ not only brings about costs ^{to} on the law enforcement and health care systems, but also take^s away

capital^h needed for ~~the~~ investment in legal businesses. In addition ~~the~~
~~substances~~ ^{drug} abuse, especially ⁱⁿ among the potential workforce, affects the level of
 national productivity. The overall national economy and ~~the nation~~ prosperity,
 as a result are threatened. ↙

At present, the ~~plague that~~ ^{drug problem which has} caught ^{high} attention ~~from~~ ^{of} the
 government, the media, and the entire community in Thailand relates to the
 substantial increase in the illicit demand and illicit supply of
 methamphetamine. The production and trafficking of this substance are
 widespread throughout the country. ~~The~~ ^{Abuse}, once limited to users who
 consumed drug^s for performance enhancement now includes users who take
 drugs for pleasure. Moreover, methamphetamine abuse is increasingly spread
 among ~~the youths.~~ ^{young people.}

We foresee that the seriousness of ^{the} methamphetamine epidemic ~~is~~ ^{will}
 increasing^e and there is ^a trend that ^{for} the amphetamine-type stimulants ~~is~~ ^{to}
 emerging^{ing} in developed and developing countries. Thailand appreciates the
 work on the control of amphetamine-type stimulants and its precursors done by
 UNDCP and INCB. The Meeting of Expert Group on Amphetamine-type
 Stimulants held in Shanghai ~~had~~ ^{some} come up with fruitful recommendations.
^{The} UNDCP should play the important role in ^{implementing} ~~materializing~~ those recommendations
 to ^{concrete} action. The technical assistance ^{of the} ~~and programme~~ may be needed to
 implement the recommendations.

Mr. Chairman

Since the drug phenomena ^{on} ~~always~~ keeps on changing, the
 activities ^{of} ~~on~~ drug control have to be adjusted to an ever-changing environment.
 The Thai Government ^{is} ~~has attached~~ ^{committed} firmly to the two-prong strategy on supply
 and demand reduction. The varieties of activities ^{on} supply and demand
 reduction have been implemented in line with what has been described in the

Global Programme of Action. We will not state here what we have done but we are certain that many countries can observe our effort from our national programmes and the international cooperation that is extended to all countries and international organizations. The successful crop replacement and highland development programme which helps reduce the illicit opium poppy cultivation area is one of our significant achievements.

Regarding ~~the~~ demand reduction, Thailand welcomes the declaration on the guiding principles of demand reduction since the demand reduction is the important component of drug control. ^A The successful demand reduction programme can help ^{prevent} protect large number of people not ~~to fall to be~~ ^{from becoming} drug victims and at the same time can help cure ~~the~~ drug abusers. This year the Royal Thai Government ~~has~~ declared that 1997 is the year for ^{of a freedom from} drug-free ^{drug} campaign. The concept ^{of} sports against drugs has been promoted. We receive good cooperation from many concerned agencies in the country.

Apart from the internal drug control, the priority is given to the international cooperation on drug control. Thailand fully supports the concept of sub-regional approach initiated by UNDCP. Thailand is a signatory country of the Memorandum of Understanding between Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and UNDCP. As it was reported by the Executive Director on the implementation of a Subregional Plan of Action on Drug Control under the said MOU, 2 subregional projects on precursor control and on demand reduction in highland communities are proceeding progressively. We appreciate the effort of UNDCP who acts as the coordinator for the subregional activities. In implementing the subregional activities, the UNDCP field offices play the important role in coordinating and facilitating the programme activities, so the improvement of these field offices is necessary.

In combating the drug problem which has now become the global problem, the strengthening of cooperation among countries is required. We

anticipate that the forthcoming Special Session of the General Assembly would come up with concrete recommendation. However, at present we have the existing mechanism for drug control such as the CMO, the Global Programme of Action as well as conventions which contain measures and guidance on drug control at national and international level. We may have to look at the existing measures or guidance whether they are fully implemented. Moreover, there are specific issues that need the concerted effort and cooperation from the concerned governments such as the precursors control to prevent the chemical diversion and smuggling. The most important requirement is the cooperation from the chemical exporting countries and chemical trading countries. As I have mentioned earlier that Thailand, now faces a grave methamphetamine problems, I, therefore would like to request precursor chemicals producing countries to impose strict control over the exportation and the smuggling of precursors as well as countries which are precursor chemical traders to be aware of illicit chemical trade.

Mr. Chairman,

At this end, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all countries and international organizations especially the UNDCP for the cooperation and assistance rendered to us. Thailand would like to reiterate our willingness to cooperate with countries, international organizations and world communities in fighting against drug peril.

Thank you.
