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**Statement by  
Mr. Theerakun Niyom  
Permanent Secretary, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand  
Head of Delegation of Thailand  
at the 18<sup>th</sup> OSCE Ministerial Council  
7 December 2011  
Litexpo Complex, Vilnius, Lithuania**

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Mr. Chairman,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished participants,

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Government of Lithuania for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements for this meeting.

Mr. Chairman,

This year marks the eleventh year of Thailand's partnership with the OSCE. Since the beginning, Thailand has been working closely with the organization to advance our common interests and shared values. We aim to do more in the years ahead. Today, we would like to share our view on five key points with the meeting as follows:

**First**, looking forward, closer and broader partnership among nations will be the key to addressing growing complex and borderless threats and challenges in this "global village". The OSCE, which covers from Vancouver to Vladivostok, has the potential to play an even more important role in contributing to the future international security and stability.

**Secondly**, it is important to work toward creating greater synergy between the OSCE and various regional frameworks. In particular, the OSCE should connect with the fast growing and integrating East Asia. As the only member of ASEAN in the OSCE, Thailand will play a greater role as a bridge between the OSCE and ASEAN and the wider East Asia.

In this connection, Thailand will host the 2012 OSCE-Thailand Conference on "Strengthening Security through Regional Co-operation: the OSCE Comprehensive Approach and Experiences of Asian Partners for Co-operation". The conference is scheduled to be held on 13-14 February next year in Chiang Mai. We look forward to welcoming all of you to the conference.

**Thirdly**, Thailand will strengthen partnership with the OSCE to address various non-traditional security challenges of common interest. We aim to work closer with the OSCE on the issue of illegal migration and trafficking in persons. We will build on the successful workshop that we organized for officials from Afghanistan early this year on the elimination of narcotic crop cultivation through sustainable alternative development.

As Thailand strives toward becoming a green economy, we also would like to explore avenues for cooperation with the OSCE on energy security, especially the use and development of renewable, alternative energy.

**Fourthly**, the OSCE should continue building on its fundamental strength as a community of shared values of democracy, the rule of law, human rights and people-centred development.

With full mandate from the people, the current Government of Thailand is committed to promoting these values at home and abroad, including in cooperation with the OSCE.

At home, we are implementing various measures to reduce poverty, improve livelihoods of the people and reduce inequalities. In the meantime, we are working to strengthen the foundation for a strong, broad-based and sustainable Thai economy.

We are also committed to achieving an inclusive national reconciliation, which is the key to unity and harmony in Thailand.

**Last but not least**, on behalf of the Government and the people of Thailand, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to all our friends for your support and assistance extended to Thailand during the recent unprecedented flooding. The Thai people are deeply touched by your friendship.

Today, the overall situation has returned to normalcy. The Thai Government is now moving ahead to ensure that this kind of massive flooding will not happen again in the future.

A comprehensive plan and special mechanisms have been set up to deal with the Relief, Recovery and Rebuilding phases, with the overall budget of 2.7 billion US dollars.

This plan will cover short-term, medium-term and long-term issues that are important for effective water management system. In addition, rehabilitation funds worth more than 10 million US dollars have also been set up to assist affected industrial estates and their flood prevention system.

Importantly, the fundamentals of the Thai economy continue to be strong and the Thai society is resilient. We are confident that we will once again overcome this challenge and emerge stronger. We hope that we can continue to count on your confidence and support.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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