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**Statement by
H.E. Mr. Sawanit Kongsiri,
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand
At the 14th OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting
Brussels, 5 December 2006**

**Mr. Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE,
Distinguished Delegates,**

Thailand wishes to applaud the OSCE for its comprehensive co-operation and extensive operations to strengthen peace and security in South-eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The OSCE remains outward-looking and is committed to addressing regional and global security challenges. Hence its partnership for cooperation with Asian countries and with the Mediterranean.

The OSCE's works on comprehensive security co-operation, from politico-military to economic and human dimensions, reflect an approach that is fitting for today's security environment. For we see today a world where non-traditional threats pose equally important dangers as traditional ones. Where pandemics, extremism and drug trafficking threaten human security as much as armed conflict.

As an Asian Partner for Co-operation, Thailand fully supports joint efforts to strengthen the OSCE and its ability to address a wide range of threats to security, particularly on human dimension security.

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,**

I wish to echo the sentiments expressed earlier by delegations that the concept of comprehensive security must be at the heart of our cooperation and our action. Globalisation has brought on the emergence of new security threats. It is now clear that the traditional conceptual approach towards security needs to be revised and updated.

The challenge before us is to work together to ensure that our new model of comprehensive security will take into account all relevant traditional and new threats, so as to enable us to form strategies and cooperate to effectively tackle challenges.

In our joint conferences with the OSCE, Thailand has placed emphasis on human security. Even though the threat to human security has not been considered a traditional security threat, for us it is of equal,

or even, of more significance to our well-being, as it is an enemy from within and closer to home. Threats, such as poverty and pandemics, affect the very core of human security, namely, the well being of peoples.

We are pleased that the subject of human security has gained wide international recognition, and that the benefits of cooperation are better understood, in part through our promotion of human security with some of the OSCE countries present here as part of the Human Security Network (HSN) which we chaired until the middle of this year. Vis-à-vis the OSCE, Thailand hosted the 2006 OSCE-Thailand Conference on “Challenges to Global Security: From Poverty to Pandemic” in Bangkok, which focused on human-dimension security and its profound impact on global security as a whole. The Conference had over 100 participants from OSCE Participating States and Partners for Co-operation as well as many participants in the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and various international organizations. I thank all those who made this 2006 Thailand-OSCE Conference successful.

Since human security is a nascent term and is still evolving, it might be more useful to use an action-driven approach rather than a concept-driven approach. In this context, I am pleased to learn that the OSCE, in cooperation with its Participating States, and the Asian Partners for Co-operation, have engaged in promoting constructive activities and dialogue on human security within the OSCE framework. We would like to see this collaboration continue in the future with increased intensity and depth in order to make our contribution relevant to the world’s needs and truly make a difference.

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,**

To tackle security challenges, Thailand views that our strategies must include an appropriate preventive aspect. That is why achieving greater human security, through better livelihood and social conditions, is equally as important, in our view, as preventing the trafficking of small arms and the proliferation of crime. This is especially true at the grass-root level. A strong community, with economic and social stability, can provide the foundation to safeguard against acts of terrorism and extremism. Local empowerment and participation helps prevent young people from being recruited into transnational crimes.

Thailand also attaches high priority to combating organized crimes, terrorism and other related issues through collaboration with the international community. For example, apart from the Conference on Sharing of Experiences in Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

organized in co-operation with the OSCE in June 2005, Thailand also hosted the 11th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in April 2005, as well as the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Lessons Learned from the UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in August this year.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the only ASEAN Partner in the OSCE, Thailand hopes to continue to contribute to the OSCE as well as to learn from its activities. Though views and experiences may be diverse, our fundamental values are the same, whether it be on human rights, the rule of law or democracy.

Now please allow me to touch briefly on the political situation in Thailand. The process to restore parliamentary democracy is going full-speed ahead. A new Constitution will be drawn up within the next six months by a congress representing all sectors of society and will be put to a referendum. The emphasis will be on strengthening checks and balances and independent commissions so that they can be less easily manipulated or interfered with. Reforms to promote national reconciliation, tolerance and participatory democracy are being enacted. We have set the timetable for free and fair elections to be held by September next year. In the meantime, life goes on as usual in Thailand with no restrictions on rights, liberties or a free press. The traffic in Bangkok, some of you might be pleased to hear, is being eased by five new mass transit projects.

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,**

In conclusion, as an Asian Partner for Co-operation, Thailand reaffirms its commitment to working closely with the OSCE. I would like to take this opportunity to express Thailand's appreciation to Slovenia as the current Chair of the Asian Contact Group, as well as to commend the excellent performance of the Belgian Chairman-in-Office (CiO) and the incoming Chair of the Asian Contact Group. Thailand is also very much looking forward to strengthening our partnership and further co-operation with the OSCE during the Spanish Chairman-in-Office next year.

Thank you for your attention.
