

**Statement by
the Head of the Delegation of the Kingdom of Thailand
at the Fourth Bali Process Ministerial Conference
30 March 2011, Bali, Indonesia**

**Your Excellencies, Foreign Ministers Marty Natalegawa and Kevin Rudd,
Co-Chairs of the Fourth Bali Process Ministerial Conference,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,**

1. At the outset, may I express the Royal Thai Government's heartfelt condolences to the governments and peoples of New Zealand, Japan and Myanmar who have recently endured devastating losses from natural disasters of an unprecedented scale. Our hearts go out to all those affected.

2. May I also extend my delegation's sincere appreciation to our Co-Chairs, Indonesia and Australia, for pushing forward the regional cooperation agenda and organizing this timely meeting. Our particular thanks go to the Government of the Republic of Indonesia for hosting this Fourth Ministerial Conference and for the warm hospitality extended to all of us in this charming island of Bali.

3. **We have listened carefully to the various opinions expressed this morning on the remaining challenges in front of us.** Thailand fully agrees that we need to reinvigorate our cooperation against trafficking in persons, and that the task **requires additional commitments from all of us.**

4. The problem for us in tackling trafficking in persons is **how to address the challenge of safeguarding national security while still promoting greater people-to-people contacts and connectivity.** While the ASEAN context is the most immediate one as we move towards an ASEAN Community by 2015, we must also build firm foundations for wider connectivity with the broader region and beyond.

5. ASEAN countries have laid a sound basis with their national anti-trafficking legislation. In Thailand's case, this contains many innovative features, such as on victim support. Countries are also moving ahead with bilateral and collective measures to reduce the illegality and exploitation that may come with labour flows. But we may need to be more systematic and revisit **coordinated information campaigns** to raise the awareness of vulnerable groups to prevent them from falling victims. **More harmonized procedures to facilitate victim protection are also needed.**

6. The second challenge of renewing commitment on border control and law enforcement requires a frank assessment. Have we been open enough with one another? Have we shared the necessary intelligence? As each of us pushes our

borders out, we need to enhance our collective early warning capabilities. We need to foster regional collaboration that encourages information sharing and intelligence networking in a timely manner. And we need to further explore measures that can help interested countries in tracking unscrupulous networks and in preventing irregular movements across land and maritime boundaries.

7. Border control must be supported by effective law enforcement. We therefore need to strengthen **mutual legal assistance and development of measures** to target financial transactions of transnational criminal networks. In this regard, Thailand is pleased to co-host a **mutual legal assistance workshop** with Australia this year.

8. The final challenge of building an inclusive and non-binding regional cooperation framework for affected countries is one that Thailand believes has the greatest potential for value-added within the Bali Process in recent years. Thailand has long believed that combating irregular movements at the root cause would provide the most sustainable approach. Going beyond traditional border security and law enforcement approaches is a discourse that Thailand has also engaged in domestically in our various national committees. Countries of origin must be assisted in their poverty alleviation and development programmes, at an appropriate comfort level. Nevertheless, this is a task that may require greater interface between traditional partners such as the UNHCR and IOM and the international financial institutions. But enhancing the development potential of the areas of origin and addressing other root causes will do much to prevent people from migrating in search of economic opportunities and falling into the hands of unscrupulous criminal networks.

9. Thailand hopes that a comprehensive approach involving interested countries of origin, transit and destination can find its due place, building on the good work of the Ad Hoc Group, whose efforts should continue. Indeed, with the inclusion of considerations such as that of orderly departure, we look forward to seeing regular migration replacing irregular or forced migration in the future.

Mr. Co-Chair,

10. The Bali Process has come a long distance to find common ground on practical arrangements and measures to counter illegal movements of people. But we will need to travel further and build greater momentum as the problems do not seem to go away with time. Therefore, as we redouble our collective efforts, we also need to ensure an effective follow up to our deliberations. On our part, Thailand pledges itself to contribute fully in this important task.

Thank you, Mr. Co-Chair.
