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351 EAST 52ND STREET • NEW YORK, NY 10022

TEL (212) 754-2230 • FAX (212) 688-3029

Statement by

**H.E. Mr. Norachit Sinhaseni
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of
Thailand**

**at the 1st Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group
on the Revitalization of the work of
the General Assembly**

New York, 4 March 2014



Building Bridges for Partnership
THAILAND

ASEAN Candidate for the UN Security Council 2017 – 2018

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President of the General Assembly, my co chair, Excellencies, dear colleagues

First, a vote of thanks. Let me at the outset pay tribute to the previous chair of the Working Group, our dear friend Ambassador Mootaz Khalil of Egypt, for his commitment, hard work and the tremendous progress achieved during his chairmanship. I cannot agree more with my co chair, you have indeed set the bar very high.

Welcome back Mr. President and thank you for the trust and confidence in appointing me co chair of the Working Group with Ambassador Ruzicka. In your acceptance speech and again just now, you reminded us that any organization that cannot evolve or adapt to changing circumstances is at risk of becoming irrelevant as an institution.

Let me also place on record our sincere appreciation to your Chef de Cabinet and to Ambassador Noel Sinclair with whom we are working closely. Our thanks also extend to the Secretariat particularly Director Ion Botnaru and his able staff. Their vast experience, wealth of information and institutional memory is exceptional. Their expertise and cooperation will prove indispensable as we proceed.

Secondly, from the informal discussions we have had with many of you, some encouraging trends have emerged. As the President noted, many have indicated that they are eager to see for instance the early elections of Security Council and ECOSOC members so that new members will have more time to prepare. Many want to see the new rotational pattern for the election of the main committee chairs. These are but a few examples.

The third point I want to make is on the way forward, the way ahead. This issue of revitalizing the GA has been with us for more than two decades. We need to make progress, but to do member states must speak up and speak often. Only by giving your views and concrete proposals can the working group arrive at a consensus and make progress.

My fourth and final point is on the co-chairs and our role. I did not seek the position. But when one is asked by the PGA, one doesn't say no. And when told that my co chair would be Ambassador Frantisek, whom I have the greatest respect for, of course I immediately said yes.

My co chair and I come with no set agenda of our own, no fixed ideas and no preconceptions. We are here to listen to you dear colleagues and to facilitate the work of the Working Group. For me, I can only pledge to you my full commitment to working with you in revitalization and reinvigorating the GA. All the more vital and urgent since we will be marking the 70th anniversary of the organization next year.

Thank you.