Thailand Written Statement on
Agenda 34.1 Progress Report – E: Progress in the rational use of medicines
(resolution WHA60.16 (2007))

Thailand takes note the progress report in the rational use of medicines.

Thailand had introduced the concept of “Rational Drug Use (RDU) Country” that engages relevant stakeholders at all levels, from up-stream (manufacture and regulator levels) to mid-stream (health services and health professional level) and down-stream (patient or civil society levels) to work collaboratively towards one united goal. Additionally, Thailand adopted a national health assembly resolution on community-centered system management for becoming a rational drug use county as a national policy in 2020. This reflects the bottom-up policy process which creates ownership of various stakeholders on RDU.

We propose 3 important recommendations to WHO as follows:

Firstly, we request the secretariat to review and improve assessment framework and indicators of rational use of medicine in order to monitor progress in implementing the Rational Use of Medicines interventions. This evidence will lead to more effective allocation and use of limited resources for improving rational use of medicines.

Secondly, Thailand strongly supports the Secretariat to improve a rational use of medicine database, compile data of all Member States, analyze it and produce a comprehensive report on rational use of medicines of all levels, including country profile, regional and global levels. This report should include up-to-date, standard and measurable indicators, lesson learned, and successful interventions to promote rational use of medicines. This will stimulate experience sharing among Member States.

Finally, we have known that irrational use of medicines (include other health products for illness and sickness) remains a serious issue with major consequences in terms of patient safety, poor health outcomes, rising antimicrobial resistance, and wasted resources. The focus should not only on solving this problem in the pharmaceutical system but also advancing the design of the health system for rational use of medicines as well. Thailand has shown our example of new approach to improve rational use of medicines as mentioned above. Therefore, we request the WHO Director-General to reinvigorate the rational use of medicine as a new inspiration of global society and search for alternative resolutions.