NEWS DIVISION

64/M

The Private Sector Statement on Thailand Political Situations

The seven private organizations commend both the government and the demonstrators on their restraints and on their effort to avoid violence and use of forces. They view the Government decisions to dissolve the Parliament as a step in the right direction. They are of the view that any solution to the present conflict must take into account of the overall national interests, and should not unilaterally benefit one group at the expense of the other. However, the Parliamentary dissolution continues to cause great concern as the dissolution in and of itself does not fully result in bringing peace and normalcy to the country. The conflict continues to run deep and has already resulted in national dissents.

The private sector reiterates that any measures that bring together a national compromise and an end to the political conflict at hand can only be achieved through the participation of all Thai people who possess a right to national political participation.

The forthcoming election may lead on to a renewed circle of political conflict if a political, economic, and social reform could not be found. It is thus imperative that these reform agendas as well as those anti-corruption measures be drawn up BEFORE the next election.

In this connection, the private sector will cooperate at an open-ended forum to discuss on a neutral ground any recommendations that may contribute to mutual interests of all concerned, and serve as facilitator to make it possible for peace to have a chance. This will start promptly from today onwards.

The Task Force for this purpose consisting of key representatives of the seven private sector organizations has now been set up and will immediately start work with a view to collating and coordinating reform recommendations together with other organizations as its next step.

9 December 2013