



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THAILAND  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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**Statement by**

**H.E. Mr. Jakkrit Srivali  
Ambassador  
Deputy Permanent Representative of Thailand  
to the United Nations**

**at the Fifth Committee  
of the 66<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly  
New York, 28 October 2011**

**Agenda Item 134: Proposed Programme Budget  
for the Biennium 2012-2013**

**Please check against delivery**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

As this is the first time my delegation is taking the floor this session, allow me to congratulate you and the members of your Bureau on your elections. We have complete confidence in your able guidance, and pledge to you our full support and cooperation.

My delegation wishes to thank the Secretary-General for his presentation of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013. We also thank Mr. Collen Kelapile, Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for introducing the report of the Advisory Committee.

My delegation associates itself with the statement delivered earlier by Argentina, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation commends the work of the Secretary-General and the UN Secretariat in preparing the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013. However, my delegation notes with concern the overall reduction of 3 per cent below the approved level of the budget outline for the biennium 2012-2013. It is important to emphasize that the budget allocations for the United Nations should enable the Organization to properly fulfill its mandates and programmes. In this connection, my delegation wishes to underline the need for the United Nations to further strengthen its role in international cooperation for development. All mandates approved by all intergovernmental bodies, in particular those related to development activities, must receive predictable and adequate funding. Even as we face a global economic and financial crisis, the priorities of the Organization as decided by the General Assembly must be appropriately funded and not negatively affected, especially in order to fulfill the needs of vulnerable economies, including those in Africa, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Mr. Chairman,

Thailand also wishes to stress the crucial contribution that regional commissions are making towards the achievement of MDGs and other mandates given to them in the economic, social and other related fields.

Asia and the Pacific has distinguished itself as the fastest growing region in the world. However, much remains to be done to ensure sustainable development for the benefit of all its 4.1 billion inhabitants, or more than 60 per cent of the world's population. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) serves as a regional hub for countries of the region to exchange views and learn from one another about policy options, strategies, and best practices in an integrated and inclusive manner.

ESCAP has produced high-impact results in a number of areas: combating poverty, enhancement of connectivity within the region, improvement of access to water and energy resources, and promotion of sustainable development, gender equality and women's empowerment. Since its initiatives and programmes have proven effective and efficient, we are concerned over the budget cuts for both the Commission's resources and personnel.

The proposed ESCAP programme budget underwent a thorough intergovernmental review and was endorsed by the Commission at its 67<sup>th</sup> session in May this year. It reflects the priorities of member States of ESCAP and focuses on areas within the Commission's core competence. My delegation, thus, stands ready to work closely with Member States to ensure appropriate funding for its priorities, bearing in mind the need for measures to mitigate the negative impact from any cuts.

Mr. Chairman,

We all recognize that resources are limited. A shortfall in resources would impair the ability of all mandated programmes and activities to be implemented. It is the full responsibility of the General Assembly to approve an adequate level of expenditures so that the Organization may maintain its capacity to fully implement its mandates and deliver on its programmes. In considering the budget, Member States should bear in mind that provision of sufficient resources, drawing on the requirements and merits of each programme and activity, is a vital determinant of its effective and timely delivery.

On our part, Thailand has always been mindful of how important it is for Member States to be committed to financing the Organization, so that it can effectively carry out its mandates. Thailand is therefore committed to fulfilling its financial obligations to the United Nations on all items in full, on time and without conditions. Thailand will continue to maintain this commitment, despite the severe flooding that has put one-third of Thailand under water and is expected to seriously impact economic growth.

In closing, my delegation looks forward to actively and constructively participating in the deliberations on this item.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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