

Statement by H.E. Mr. Virachai Plasai
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Thailand to the United Nations
at the General Debate of
the 2017 ECOSOC Financing for Development Forum Follow-up (FfD Forum)
Tuesday 23 May 2017, 16.30-20.00 hrs.
Trusteeship Council Chamber, UNHQ

Mr. President,

- The Kingdom of Thailand aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Ecuador on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. President,

- Successful Implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and delivery of the Means of Implementation of the 2030 Agenda is a prerequisite to achieving sustainable development.
- In line with both Agendas, the Royal Thai Government has introduced ‘Thailand 4.0’ economic development model, with the ultimate goal to transform the country into a value-based, high-income and inclusive economy, with creativity and innovation as driving force, while preserving and protecting the environment.
- I would like to highlight some concrete steps that we have undertaken with this objective in mind:
- First, on domestic public resources, we have been working toward strengthening our tax system, increasing public expenditure efficiency, and tackling harmful tax competition, base erosion, profit shifting and other tax avoidance.
- In particular, a new law has been introduced to broaden the tax base and adjust our personal income tax structure to allow low-income population to have more disposable income.
- Second, on domestic and international private business and finance, we have been implementing support programmes for SMEs – which are the key driver of economic growth in our country- in order to enhance their ICT

capacity, and improve their know-how on trade financing and their comparative advantages in trade in services.

- We have also made significant progress in enhancing access to equitable financing for vulnerable groups and SMEs especially in the rural area, through the idea of nano and pico-finance, while improving financial literacy of specific groups including elderly, women and young entrepreneurs.
- Third, on science, technology and innovation and capacity building, Thailand 4.0 aims to maximize their benefits on increasing economic competitiveness and improving people's lives. Measures implemented include increasing R&D expenditure to 4 per cent of national GDP, investing more in human resource development and skill trainings, introducing transformative shifts such as transforming traditional farming to smart farming, traditional SMEs to innovative start-ups, and unskilled labour to knowledge workers, and developing at least 10 cities into the world's most livable cities.
- Lastly, on international development cooperation, Thailand has transformed itself into an emerging donor country through south-south and triangular cooperation frameworks, sharing in particular with our partners our Late King's Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP). So far, 21 countries have become "Friends of SEP" through this programme. We will continue to provide technical cooperation to other developing countries and share our experiences through the "SEP for SDGs Partnership" as well as the "SEP for SDGs Youth Partnership".

Mr. President,

- National efforts and international support for financing for sustainable development must go hand in hand. Thailand is committed to ensuring that Addis remains action-oriented, impactful, and meaningful and complements the 2030 Agenda. People will always be at the centre of our development and we will continue to promote the engagement of society and forge genuine partnerships.

Thank you.
