

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Nontawat Chandrtri  
Charge d'affairs, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative  
of the Kingdom of Thailand to the United Nations  
at the General Debate of  
the 2018 ECOSOC Financing for Development Forum Follow-up (Ffd Forum)  
Wednesday 25 April 2018,  
Trusteeship Council Chamber, UNHQ, New York**

\*\*\*\*\*

Madame President,

1. Thailand aligns itself with the statement delivered by Egypt, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.
2. We reiterate that financing for development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda are **the integral parts and means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**. For this to remain meaningful, it has to be action-oriented.
3. Let me highlight a few points:
4. One, international trade remains a crucial engine for development. **Thailand reaffirms our commitment to the rules-based, open, free, transparent, predictable, inclusive, non-discriminatory, fair and equitable multilateral trading system**, with the WTO as the cornerstone.
5. Two, on domestic public resources mobilisation, **more efforts are needed to improve transparency of tax administration**.
6. **Thailand's on-going tax system reform includes the establishment of a data platform** to allow the public to trace government budget spending and take part in anti-corruption process through channels for whistleblowing and complaints.
7. **Cross-border cooperation** should also **tackle illegal cross-border trade and illicit financial flows**. Thailand has enhanced cooperation in this area with our neighbouring countries through border management and exchange of information and intelligence.
8. Three, **we need to continue the pursuit of financial inclusion and private investments**.
9. Thailand has made progress in providing equitable access to financial services and assistance, including basic banking accounts, reverse mortgage for elderly and SMEs Development funds.
10. To mitigate risks and boost long-term investments in the region, we supported the Credit Guarantee and Investment Facility under the **ASEAN+3 framework**. This supports private sectors to issue bonds for large-scale sustainable development projects such as infrastructure, green bonds, and solar bonds.
11. Four, we need to **better utilise the untapped potential of science, technology, and innovations (STI)** in the SDGs implementation. Thailand is transforming

the country into **Thailand 4.0**, where **STIs are being injected into the way of living**.

12. We strive to **bridge our digital divide** by enhancing digital literacy of vulnerable groups, persons with disabilities and elderly and establishing community digital centers.
13. We also promote **Smart Farming**, through the creation of a Smart Water Operation Center, which forecasts water situation, leading to more effective agricultural planning and water management.
14. In closing, we reiterate that **international cooperation remains vital** to pursue the FfD and sustainable development agendas. We stress the importance of South-South and triangular cooperation as complements to North-South cooperation, and reaffirm Thailand's commitment in this regard.

(Word count: 398 words / time limit: 3 minutes / speed required: 132 words per minute)

\*\*\*\*\*