

**Statement for H.E. Mr. Vitavas Srivihok,
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations
General Debate, 2019 ECOSOC Operational Activities for Development Segment (OAS)
Wednesday 22 May 2019, 16.45-18.00 hrs.**

Thank you Madame President,

1. Thailand aligns itself with the statement delivered by the State of Palestine on behalf of G77 and China.
2. Let me express appreciation to you, Madame President, and the ECOSOC Bureau for convening this OAS. Thailand strongly supports this role of the ECOSOC as an accountability platform for the system to report to Member States. Updates and feedback on the reform progress, remaining gaps and challenges from the system, including from the ground, are crucial and most useful as we continue to reposition the UNDS to best support our efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda.
3. We are glad that the transition to the new Resident Coordinator system has so far been smooth. We appreciate the **continued engagement by our RC in Thailand** to update us both in Bangkok and here in New York of the progress. We look forward to continuing our support as well as regular interactions as we further advance the reform at the national level.

4. We reiterate our belief that the **RC Offices and the UN Country Teams** would greatly benefit from **hiring qualified nationals** of the host country. This could help strengthen capacity of local personnel and **bring in valuable local knowledge and expertise**, which contribute to the alignment of the UN work with national contexts and priorities.
5. At the regional level, we continue to underline the need for **region by region approach** to revamp the UNDS regional architecture. We value its role in supporting countries in the region address relevant **trans-national challenges** and we think there is room for the UNDS to **further and fully utilise and leverage across all of its regional assets** to fulfill this role in a more comprehensive and tangible manner.
6. We also call for strengthened partnerships between the **regional UNDS and other sub-regional and regional organisations**, such as between **ESCAP and ASEAN**. Such enhanced cooperation would further help **accelerate regional efforts and progress in the implementation of SDGs**.
7. Thank you Madame President.

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