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STATEMENT

BY

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DURING
**THE DISCUSSIONS ON THE ECOSOC DIALOGUES OF THE LONG TERM
POSITIONING OF THE UN-DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NEW
AGENDA**

Friday, February 12, 2016
United Nations, New York

Mr. Vice President,

1. I thank you for convening this important dialogue and for giving me the floor in order to make a few observations. My delegation aligns with the statement delivered by Thailand on behalf of the Group of G77 and China and hereby wish to make the following remarks in my national capacity.
2. We welcome the convening of these discussions as timely since this will ensure that the outcomes are considered by the next QCPR 2016. The urgency to reinvigorate the United Nations Development System has become pressing than before. Business as usual is not credible. This is due to the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreements on climate change. We are at the tipping point.
3. At the onset I would like to clarify that we do not have four development agendas as I can hear in the presentation. It is my understanding that the 2030 Agenda for sustainable Development remains the main omnibus agenda with other outcomes playing a complementary role. Outcomes from other processes are subsidiary, supportive and integral components. It is important that this point is clarified in order to ensure that the agenda is not fragmented amongst institutions. Fragmentation of the Agenda will lose the focus needed in its implementation.

Mr. Vice President,

4. Going forward, we need to ask ourselves whether the UN is fit for purpose, in this case the purpose being the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We need to ask ourselves whether the UN and its organizations have the political, institutional and leadership will to pivot to the demands and

aspirations of this broad, ambitious and universal agenda. And also whether the member states have the will.

5. To address these concerns, we look forward to seeing an open, inclusive and consultative process of drawing the roadmap on the second phase of the Dialogue to members an opportunity to express their views on the process. Whereas we appreciate that discussions on the positioning of ECOSOC cannot be concluded overnight, it is also important to clarify how long is long-term. Is it 2 years, 5 years, 10 years or more? The process cannot be perpetual but requires to have a specific timeframe in order to communicate the right signals.

Mr. Vice President,

6. We cannot shy away from asking some fundamental questions of policies and mandates. Some of these are conceptual and others are of policy. For instance we note that eradication of all forms of poverty should be the highest priority of sustainable development. But clearly there is need to define the multidimensionality of poverty as mandated by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) outcome document. The UN Development System is urged to develop an appropriate method for the measurement of poverty.
7. I agree with the group of G 77 and China that this dialogue should be limited to the six areas listed under Resolution 2014/14. Issues such as humanitarian, peace-building, and peace operations are not covered. There should be enhanced coherence and integrated support in the UN Development System in accordance to paragraph 88 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

8. We look forward to ECOSOC undertaking a comprehensive mapping exercise to assess the existing functions vis-à-vis the mandates of the arms and legs of the UN Development System. The issue of delivery as one UN remains problematic at the national level. Lack of proper coordination and not being able to deliver as one UN has led to proliferation of agencies operating on the ground with increased transaction costs. More than 20 percent of the aid is expended on transaction costs while only 60 percent is channeled to the intended projects. The support which is expected to be channeled to projects is not impacting positively to the intended beneficiaries due to the high transaction costs associated with the delivery of the support. The UN systems should carry out an in-depth analysis and respond to these concerns.
9. We would like to see the documents to be produced by the Independent Advisory Group ~~made~~ available to member states several weeks before meetings could take place. This will allow us sufficient time to prepare the responses.
10. Lastly Mr. Vice President, we look forward to a strengthened role of the UN operational activities for development with effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and impact and increased resource allocation.

I thank you