

**Opening Remarks**  
**of**  
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**Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations**  
**and ECOSOC Vice-President,**  
**as Chair of the Coordination Segment,**  
**at the Opening Session of the ECOSOC Coordination Segment**  
**General Assembly Hall, UNHQ, New York**  
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Mr. President,  
Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

*(Introduction)*

1. Let me begin this way. I would like to share with you why February is my favourite month of the year.

2. When I was growing up, it was the beginning of the Lunar New Year and it was a time of festivity. When I was a teenager, I was reminded that February is Valentine's Day and an opportunity to build friendship.

3. Today, I find out there is another important reason—that is because we are having this flagship ECOSOC process and that we will begin the ECOSOC discussions. This is why, for me, February is very important!

*(Overview)*

4. Let me give one main message, "**The time for coordination is now**".

5. We have great work that is being undertaken within the ECOSOC system by various bodies. We heard yesterday, during the Partnership Forum, the valuable inputs and ideas of various stakeholders. But now we need coordination.

6. Why?

7. From coordination, we can **identify overlaps** and therefore make our work more efficient.

8. Through coordination, we **identify complementarities** and that is where we can build upon each other strengths.

9. With coordination, **we can develop synergies which will be critical as we seek to overcome challenges**, not only those **as mentioned by the President of ECOSOC** but also those **mentioned by the UN Secretary-General** just a few days ago, in his call for action, highlighting the five crises that we are facing.

*(Enhancing Coordination)*

10. So that is our task for the next two days. How can we enhance coordination within the ECOSOC system?

11. But, as we do so, may I suggest two more things.

12. One, we should also keep in mind to **look beyond the ECOSOC system**—how can we integrate and coordinate more with other UN bodies especially the General Assembly. The President and the President of the General Assembly have begun a lot of work on this. These things should continue.

13. Two, at the next level, how can we **enhance coordination beyond the UN system**. For example, we have regional groupings, we have important groupings around that can support our efforts. And we have the international financial institutions.

14. So these are the things we should bear in mind.

*(Food for Thought)*

15. Before I close, let me touch on a couple of brief points that are food for thought or points to ponder, and I would like to thank the Secretariat for preparing a very important and useful Information Note. These are things that are cross-cutting and that we should bear in mind when we consider coordination suggestions by the various panelists and stakeholders:

16. First, how to **operationalize the “Leave No One Behind” principle**, building on existing efforts by various UN agencies. We all have been talking about leaving no one behind but how can we actually do that, taking into account the interests of the most vulnerable.

17. Second, how do we **promote greater coordination in women empowerment**—utilizing the power of women, utilizing their contribution is an important gamechanger that can help us address many of the challenges before us.

18. These are only two of the various points I would like to highlight as we think about cross-cutting catalysts that can help us coordinate better and, ultimately, help us achieve the goals that we want which is to take forward the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs.

19. Thank you.

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