



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THAILAND  
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**Statement**

**by**

**H.E. Dr. Suriya Chindawongse**

**Ambassador and Permanent Representative  
of the Kingdom of Thailand to the United Nations**

**at the Opening Session**

**of the 2022 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development  
(HLPF 2022)**

**5 July 2022, UNHQ, New York**

1. Thank you, Mr. President, for your statement and the introduction and the Deputy Secretary-General for your statement, as well as the other speakers who spoke before me. My message is quite simple. Coordination is everything. This is my message that I am conveying as Vice-President of ECOSOC and the Chair of the Coordination Segment of ECOSOC.

2. In a world of scarce resources, multiple crises and severe time constraints, **effective coordination is a crucial force multiplier** for the ECOSOC system and its thirty-plus bodies. Why? Because our important goal is to rescue and advance sustainable development.

3. Coordination also generates results and promotes harmony. Here, we can draw lessons from the K-Pop group “aespa”, one of the youth representatives present. From four different voices combined into a single harmonious whole, translating into a wondrous display of song and choreography.

4. Now, to reach out to the younger generation, which is key, allow me to use the letters comprising this talented group (A-E-S-P-A) to help summarize some key messages from ECOSOC coordination including the messages from the commissions and bodies.

**5. *So first is the letter A: this stands for All. All stakeholders are important, all voices should be heard.***

6. From the functional and regional commissions to the expert and ad hoc bodies within the ECOSOC system, all of them contributed, brainstorming to our recommendations. Likewise for the over 100 stakeholders: CSOs, youth groups and other associations, that took part in the Partnership Forum, which helped supplement ideas for how we can address the challenges of development in the ECOSOC system.

**7. *Next is E: Equity and Empowerment. Regain equity and promote empowerment.***

8. From achieving vaccine equity to promoting financial equity, from closing developmental gaps to bridging the digital divide. Let’s not forget the challenges that people face: 676 million people are in extreme poverty. 19 million people expected to face chronic undernourishment in

2023. ECOSOC has ideas on how to address inequity, from leveraging on digital technology to encouraging greater concessional financing for vulnerable countries and to expanding fiscal space, as well as to enhancing vaccine production, including regional production. And as always, it is the most vulnerable, especially women and girls, who receive the most impact, the most disproportional impact. So **they should be more protected, and equally important, more empowered**. Similarly for the vulnerable countries, LDCs, LLDCs and SIDs.

**9. S for Sustainability and Synergy. Achieve transformation changes for accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda.**

10. Attaining the SDGs. They are at risk. The latest studies have already shown that there are backsliding in a number of SDGs. We need to strengthen focus on the inter-linkages between SDGs, moving away from siloed approaches, and addressing systemic issues to make our global response better, quicker, and more holistic. This requires synergy.

**11. P for People and Planet. Achieve balance in pursuing both people-centred policies and protecting our planet.**

12. We cannot have one at the expense of the other. We need both and they can be mutually reinforcing. Therefore, while seeking to overcome poverty challenges and promoting Universal Health Coverage (UHC), we should also continue to build on the outcomes of COP26 and maintain momentum and ambition for COP27, we should draw on good lessons of bio, circular and green economy approaches, for example.

**13. And lastly back to A for Architecture. Let all components of the ECOSOC architecture work seamlessly together.**

14. This should apply to the UN system as a whole and beyond. Good examples include the rapid response to current crises of the UN development system that we have seen and we thank the DSG for the great work, and the strong synergies achieved between UN Women, UNICEF and ITU, to bring digital technology to open opportunities for women entrepreneurs and to remote learning for children affected by the pandemic. Take also SG's proposal for a networked UN. We should also

promote synergies with regional commissions and regional organizations. After all, the regional voice and regional actions are crucial.

15. ***To conclude***: The factors and the key messages: All, Equity and Empowerment, Sustainability and Synergy, People and Planet, and Architecture. I hope the recommendations from these ideas will find their way in support of the High-level Political Forum (HLPF). In short, AESPA for HLPF.

16. Thank you, Mr. President.

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