



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THAILAND
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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Statement

by

**His Excellency Dr. Suriya Chindawongse
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of Thailand to the United Nations**

**before the Fifth Committee
of the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

**Agenda item 139: Programme Planning, and
Agenda item 138: Proposed Programme Budget 2023,
New York, 12 October 2022**

Mr. Chair,

1. At the outset, I wish to thank the Secretary-General for sharing his vision on the Proposed Programme Budget for 2023 and the Chair of the ACABQ, for introducing the Committee's related report. And congratulations to you and the Bureau on your election.

2. Thailand aligns itself with the statement delivered by Pakistan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and by Singapore on behalf of ASEAN.

Mr. Chair,

3. In the current challenging global context and growing economic fragility, the **UN needs adequate resources more than ever to ensure full and effective implementation of mandates given by Member States**. While the overall financial situation of the UN has improved, there is the challenge of inflation and exchange rate fluctuations. At the same time, most of us are still recovering from long-term socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 which have been exacerbated by global challenges of climate change, disasters, food and energy crises, and humanitarian situations.

4. In this light, Thailand would like to share the following four points on Programme Planning and Proposed Programme Budget 2023.

5. **First**, this committee must deliver a **well-planned, cost-effective budget that optimizes resource use**. Thailand takes note of the slight increase in UNSG's budget proposal for 2023 compared

to 2022. We believe that the proposed programme budget should **provide adequate resources for the implementation of programmes under the development pillar**, particularly those that put the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development back on track.

6. **Second**, Thailand supports the **Secretary-General's management reform**. We believe that the annual budgetary cycle has the potential to lead to more accurate mandate resourcing and enable the UN to act more swiftly in responding to new challenges.

7. **Third**, Thailand recognizes the **significant role of the Committee for Programme and Coordination** in ensuring that a proposed programme budget conforms to given mandates. We hope to strengthen the CPC to ensure that it can effectively accommodate the management reform and preserve the sequencing of the UN's budgetary consideration.

8. **Lastly**, as host country of UNESCAP, Thailand supports **full appropriation of funds befitting the Commission's activities and mandates in 2023**. We hope the Committee will continue its support for the **Seismic Mitigation and Life-cycle Replacements Project (SMP) at UNESCAP Secretariat** in Bangkok. The project, which will transform the premises into a safe, accessible, sustainable and modern workplace for all Secretariats and Member States alike, has been implemented in a budget conscious manner and is expected to finish on schedule in December 2023.

Mr. Chair,

8. **To conclude:** the Fifth Committee has a big task ahead of us, as we always do. I reiterate my delegation's commitment to work collectively with all, and especially with you, Mr. Chair, to achieve a successful outcome on financial and budgetary arrangements to ensure that the UN can fully and effectively implement its mandates.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.
