

HLPF 2022 Opening

Tuesday, 5 July 2022, 9 AM-10 AM, GA Hall

Statement by

H.E. Ambassador Suriya Chindawongse

Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations and

ECOSOC Vice-President

Mr. President,

1. Coordination is everything. This is my message as President of the Coordination Segment of ECOSOC.

2. In a world of scarce resources, multiple crises and severe time constraints, effective coordination is a critical force multiplier to get the best of what over thirty bodies under the ECOSOC system have to offer and take forward our shared goal: to rescue and advance sustainable development.

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

4. Indeed, “aespa” is an inspiration to so many that I wish to summarize the key ideas from ECOSOC coordination based on the letters comprising this talented group (A-E-S-P-A), and hopefully encourage some link between what we do here in ECOSOC and the younger generation.

5. So first is the letter A: this stands for All.

6. All stakeholders are important, all voices should be heard. From the functional and regional commissions to the expert and ad hoc bodies within the ECOSOC system, all of

their inputs form part of our recommendations. This also include the over 100 stakeholders: CSOs, youth groups and other associations, that took part in the Partnership Forum.

7. Next is E: Equity and Empowerment.

8. Equity needs to be regained. From vaccine equity to financial equity, from closing developmental gaps to the digital divide. Through close coordination, ECOSOC has generated ideas on how to address inequity, from leveraging on digital technology to encouraging greater concessional financing for vulnerable countries. And since the most affected groups are those who are most vulnerable, especially women and girls, they should be better empowered. Similarly for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDs.

9. S: Sustainability and Synergy.

10. We need to achieve transformative changes for accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the attainment of the SDGs which are currently at risk. 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. This requires synergy.

11. P: People and Planet.

12. We need to achieve balance in pursuing both people-centred policies and protecting our planet. We cannot have one at the expense of the other. Therefore, while seeking to overcome poverty challenges and promoting Universal Health Coverage (UHC), we should also continue to build on the outcomes of COP 26 and maintain momentum and ambition for COP27, perhaps drawing on good lessons of bio, circular and green economy approaches.

13. And finally back to A: Architecture.

14. All components of the ECOSOC architecture should work seamlessly together, and this should apply to the UN system as a whole and beyond. Good examples include the rapid and coordinated response of the UN development system and the strong synergies achieved between UN Women, UNICEF and ITU. Hence the SG's proposal for a networked UN. This also involves greater synergies with regional commissions and indeed regional organizations.

15. To conclude: All, Equity and Empowerment, Sustainability and Synergy, People and Planet, and Architecture: these are the key areas where the ECOSOC Coordination Segment has tried to make a contribution. I hope these ideas will find their way in support of the HLPF.

16. Thank you Mr. President.
