



REMARKS ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA BY MR. NONTAWAT CHANDRTRI, MINISTER COUNSELLOR, PERMANENT MISSION OF THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS, CHAIR OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA, AT THE INITIAL MEETING ON THE GLOBAL FOLLOW-UP AND REVIEW FRAMEWORK: (NEW YORK, 17 MARCH 2016)

Co-Facilitators,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

We would like to congratulate you on your appointment as the Co-Facilitators to lead this open, inclusive, and transparent process of informal consultations on the global follow-up and review framework. We thank you for the presentation of the road map for the process on informal consultations. The Group of 77 and China has full confidence in your able leadership and stands ready to participate in the informal consultations in a constructive manner.

Co-Facilitators,

In accordance with the mandate of Paragraph 90 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, issues to be included in the *Report of the Secretary-General on Critical milestones towards coherent, efficient, and inclusive follow-up and review at the global level* range from the organizational arrangements for State-led reviews at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to the institutional responsibilities, guidance on annual themes, sequence of thematic reviews and options for periodic reviews for the HLPF. We believe that these parameters constitute a good basis for our discussion and exchange of views in the coming months.

We would like to note that the 2030 Agenda in its section on Follow-up and Review already provides very robust and detailed guidance on how the SDGs are to be followed up at the national, regional and global levels. It is of utmost importance that our discussions build upon this guidance and **not** seek to re-legislate the issues and principles already agreed upon as part of the 2030 Agenda outcome document.

Co-Facilitators,

We wish to share our preliminary views regarding “the most critical issues” addressed in the abovementioned *Report of the Secretary-General* as follows:

First, it is important to ensure that the follow-up and review of the goals is done in a systematic way that protects the integrated and indivisible nature of the SDGs and maintains the ambition of the 2030 Agenda. It should also ensure that the United Nations Development System is supporting every country in the implementation of the Agenda.

Furthermore, the Group views that the informal consultations should cover the discussion on thematic and cross-cutting issues. We believe further clarification is needed on which entity will cover those issues since there is the preclusion of any single institution or forum from claiming exclusive ownership of or responsibility for the review of a specific goal. Agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, as well as other international organizations which hold in their mandate the coverage of subjects that have impact on areas covered by the SDGs, are in the process of defining work plans and specific actions in order to support the HLPF in the follow-up and review process at the global level. Informal consultations may also aim at building consensus regarding expected contributions from these organizations in order to avoid duplications of efforts and resources.

Second, the HLPF has a central role in overseeing a network of follow-up and review processes at the global level, and it is crucial that the HLPF works coherently with the General Assembly, the ECOSOC and other relevant organs and forums, in accordance with their existing mandates.

As the HLPF is a part of the network which builds upon existing arrangements, we are of the view that the global follow-up and review should benefit from a discussion of the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, which is a separate process which is ongoing. These elements ought to be seen together, as part and parcel of implementing the 2030 Agenda.

In this regard, to further provide a clear overview of the whole process, we view that a flow chart to capture all these interlinked processes and elements with regard to the HLPF and other aligned forums and processes could be beneficial.

Third, the Resolution 67/290 can be complemented to spell out the specific mandates of the ECOSOC in relation with the HLPF. We believe that transparency and predictability of the preparations for the HLPF are of crucial importance. In this regard, a better alignment of ECOSOC’s work will ensure a successful HLPF. We would like to request the Division for Sustainable

Development and the Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination, both from DESA, to work together in this endeavor. We believe that there is a need to decide how the HLPF will be organized and how the voluntary national reviews at the HLPF will take place. Moreover, it is important to further develop modalities for voluntary national review presentations at the HLPF. We need to also discuss the issue of the summary of the discussions of the HLPF meetings and the role of regional commissions. In this regard, specific mandates of the ECOSOC may be discussed and be part of this process.

Finally, the follow-up and review process, both vertical as well as horizontal, must preserve the balance among and within goals. It is important that all goals are seen as equally important and that adequate and balanced attention is given to each of them. This needs to be ensured both while discussing a possible clustering of goals as well as for thematic reviews.

Co-Facilitators,

These are our preliminary views on the “critical issues’ to be discussed in the informal consultations. We look forward to a fruitful and meaningful process and please rest assured that you have our continued support as the Group of 77 and China firmly believes that it is through 'follow-up and review' that the United Nations will be in a position to assess progress in the implementation of the ambitious global agenda, ensuring that its overall objectives of poverty eradication and achieving sustainable development are duly attained.

I thank you.