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Statement

by

His Excellency Virachai Plasai

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

at

**the Formal Meeting of the Fifth Committee
Agenda Item 134**

**Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of
the United Nations:**

**Shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations:
ensuring a better future for all**

on 4 December 2017, Conference Room 3

Mr. Chair,

1. At the outset, Thailand aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Ecuador on behalf of the Group 77 and China and the distinguished delegate of Singapore on behalf of ASEAN.

2. Let me also express our appreciation to the Secretary-General for his report and for the briefing today. Our appreciation also goes to Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Chair of the ACABQ, for the presentation of the corresponding report of the ACABQ.

Mr. Chair,

3. Thailand reiterates our support for the Secretary-General's reform efforts in all three pillars of the United Nations. We deem it crucial that the reform processes, although dealing with distinct and separate pillars, continue to be **coherent**, to **complement** and to be **properly aligned** with one another. At the end of this endeavour, we hope to see the UN better poised to fulfil its duties and deliver on all mandates as enshrined in the UN Charter. An organisation that is more "efficient, transparent and nimble" will strengthen multilateralism and make it more impactful for people on the ground.

4. The two reports contain a number of proposals, reactions, information and preliminary analysis that have kick-started an earnest and constructive debate. As our preliminary reaction, we wish to highlight the following points:

5. First, the **reform process should be inclusive and member-state driven**.

6. Second, Thailand welcomes the importance placed on **promoting transparency** and **accountability**. We are encouraged to hear the emphasis placed on further enhancing and embedding a **culture of accountability** in the work of the UN. We will continue to follow up on how the use of technological advances can help improve the capacity of

Member States as well as other oversight mechanisms to have “checks and balances” in the system.

7. Third, addressing **fragmentation** in the organisation and its work culture will be an important element to ensure that management reform takes shape effectively. To this end, Thailand will look with a keen eye to **the rationalisation of aligning authority with responsibility** across UN management structures. As host of ESCAP and other UN entities, Thailand looks forward to learning more on how management authority will be decentralised closer to the point of delivery. We see the importance of understanding clearly the **scope of delegated authorities, reporting lines** to UN Headquarters as well as **increased engagement** with host countries to ensure impactful mandate delivery on the ground.

8. Fourth, Thailand joins the G-77 and ASEAN in stressing the importance of **gender equality** and **balanced geographical representation in human resources management** of the UN, especially at senior levels. Thailand is very encouraged by the Secretary-General’s commitment towards achieving this goal, including his first steps already taken in this direction with regard to the staff of his Executive Office.

9. Fifth, With regard to the proposed **reconfiguration of the programme planning and budgeting process**, Thailand appreciates the Secretary General’s efforts to simplify the process and improve the organisation’s capacity to align resources with emerging priorities and programmatic demands. We look forward to further reviewing the details to be mapped out in subsequent reports, including the proposed shift to an annual budget. Thailand would be interested to look into the implications of these changes on the Member States, in terms of budgetary contributions and the **workload** of the fifth committee as well as other oversight bodies. While we concur with you that this Organisation needs self-improvement to be more agile, efficient and results-oriented, we hope that **transparency** and **accountability** as well

as **measures for risk mitigation** will also be promoted, and not compromised in this process.

10. Let me conclude by commending the Secretary-General for his hard work and for starting this momentum of change among us. The path towards a reformed UN will not be an easy one. Thailand commits to working with you and other Member States. We want to ensure that management reform will play its part in strengthening the United Nations' core competency and centrality in global governance. It must also strengthen the role of the UN in the promotion of the collective interest of its Member States, including the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.