

STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS BY MR TERRENCE TEO, COUNSELLOR, PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE TO THE UNITED NATIONS, ON AGENDA ITEM 135: SEISMIC MITIGATION RETROFIT AND LIFE-CYCLE REPLACEMENTS PROJECT AT THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC IN BANGKOK AT THE FIFTH COMMITTEE, MAIN PART OF THE 74th SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON 29 OCTOBER 2019

Thank you, Chairman.

1 I have the honour to speak on behalf of the 10 Member States of the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), on agenda item 135: Programme budget for 2020 in relation to the seismic mitigation retrofit and life-cycle replacements project at the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) premises in Bangkok.

2 We thank Mr Chandru Ramanathan, Assistant Secretary-General and Controller in the Office of Programme Planning, Finance and Budget, for introducing the report of the Secretary-General on this matter. We also express our appreciation to Mr Cihan Terzi, Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) for introducing the Committee's related report.

3 ASEAN aligns itself with the statement made by Palestine on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr Chair,

4 The need to provide all United Nations Regional Commissions with safe, suitable, and accessible workplaces cannot be understated. In terms of the number of countries serviced, ESCAP is the largest serving 53 Member States and nine Associate Members. We remain grateful for the continued efforts of the Government of Thailand, as the host country, in facilitating the work of ESCAP, including having a more informed and improved implementation of the project's design and construction phases.

5 As we strive to AP7 RG00.11O 0.13357378t(7 Rwo)-7(AP2030ve)1Ag7(AP()-29(it)-3)1499

6 ASEAN stresses the importance of good governance, effective oversight, transparency and accountability in the management of the project to ensure its timely completion within budget. In this regard, we welcome the third audit report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services

Caribbean (ECLAC) in Santiago. ASEAN will follow all discussions on these items with close attention.

11 In closing, Mr Chair, allow me to reassure you of ASEAN's readiness to engage in constructive deliberation so that we can reach a positive and timely outcome on this important agenda item.

Thank you.

.