STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. VIRACHAI PLASAI, AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS, ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA, AT THE INAUGURAL ECOSOC FORUM ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT FOLLOW-UP (New York, 18 April 2016)

Mr. President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

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

At the outset, the Group wishes to express our congratulations on the Inauguration of Economic and Social Council Forum on Financing for Development follow-up (FfD Forum) since it is the first forum to address the follow-up and review of the Financing for Development outcomes including Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), Doha Declaration, and Monterrey Consensus, as well as the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Group would also like to acknowledge and appreciate the efforts of the Presidency of ECOSOC and Co-facilitators in the preparatory processes towards this Forum.

Mr. President,

This Forum is very crucial to the Group of 77 and China which represents 134 members from developing countries whose fates still heavily depend on how to meet the financing gap in order to achieve **the goal to end poverty and hunger**, as well as Sustainable Development Goals in its three dimensions. However, the FfD Forum is not only essential to developing countries but also to the overall global community since it takes stock of the implementation of AAAA which is **an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** and supports as well as complements the latter with concrete policies and actions. Due to its universal nature, FfD Forum requires the spirit of global partnership and solidarity to translate visions in AAAA to concrete actions. We are also pleased to see that the Forum has successfully captured the essence of multi-stakeholders nature mentioned in AAAA with the participation of both developed and developing countries, private sector, civil society, major international financial institutions and other relevant stakeholders.