The Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP)\(^1\) emphasizes a life of living honestly and meaningfully, fostering sustainability and resilience. SEP suggests a holistic framework for public and personal life, based on moderation, reasonableness and prudence, conditioned by principles of knowledge and virtue. The application of these principles allows for integrated understanding of a situation and requisite development policies, implemented with a commitment for honesty, wisdom, altruism and perseverance.

A peace process refers to comprehensive efforts and steps aiming to resolve conflict and to build peace. A State emerging from conflict needs to address root causes of discontent in order to transform a society into a peaceful and resilient society where attitudes, institutions and structures can sustain peace. This includes the capacity to address concerns through inclusive civic engagement\(^2\) without destruction or violence\(^3\). It is hoped that through this process, a society is able to absorb and recover from shocks, such as natural disasters, economic downturns, or security threats, particularly from non-state actors. In this regard, it is important to build peace at local and national levels.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aim to significantly reduce all forms of violence, and work with governments and communities to find lasting solutions to conflict and insecurity. Promoting peaceful society is enshrined in the SDG 16, which emphasises an integrated approach to attain sustained peace. A sustainable peace process seeks to ensure that a society flourishes politically, economically and socially. It embraces information, skills, sensitivity and understanding based on a commitment of integrity, prudence and perseverance. In this regard, the notion of SEP provides an orientation toward an outcome for peace processes, namely a peaceful society through sustainability and ultimate resilience.

Sustainable peace requires a society to rebuild an understanding of society goals. Some of these goals include: a holistic national reconciliation; strategic public private alliances for

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\(^1\) The Sufficiency Economy Philosophy was developed by His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand. See, Sufficiency Economy: A Bridge to Sustainable Development; Sufficiency Economy and the New Theory, the Chaipattana Foundation. The Sufficiency Economy stresses an overriding principle for conduct, from family to community to country.


development; communications strategies for building public awareness; and, education promoting coexistence and inclusiveness for the entire society, especially for those most affected from the conflict such as women, youth and indigenous populations. Further, reintegration of former actors such as fighters or combatants is critical. These represent some of the challenges, for example, of one of the most critical and historical peace processes taking place now, the peace process in Colombia. In this regard, the notion of SEP offers some insight to promoting a sound understanding of reconciliation, and rebuilding the country’s social fabric and trust.

A testament to how SEP principle can be successfully applied at the grassroots to achieve various SDGs, particularly SDG 16 which calls for peaceful societies, is the implementation of alternative development to address illicit drug crops. Alternative development is not simply about a reduction of an area used for opium cultivation, but it is about helping people to help themselves to have access to health, education, basic services, to earn their livelihoods, to live with dignity, and to reach the furthest behind, including rural women.

Draft Programme

4:00- 4:15 Opening Remarks
   H.E. Mr. Virachai Plasai, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Thailand to the UN and Chair of the Group of 77 and China

4:15- 5:30 Roundtable on Sufficiency Economy Philosophy and Sustainable Peace Processes – Ensuring Enduring Peace with participation of
   H.E. Mr. Kobsak Chutikul, Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand
   Ms. Jessica Feita, Assistant Secretary-General and Regional Director, Bureau of Latin America and the Caribbean, UNDP
   Dr. Massimo Tommasoli, Observer, for International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) to the UN
   Mr. William O’Neill, Director, Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum
   Social Science Research Council (SSRC)
   Dr. Virginia Bouvier, Senior Advisor for Peace Processes, United States Institute for Peace (USIP)
   Moderated by
   Ms. Yvonne Lodico, Co-Founder and President, Initiative for Governance, Reconciliation and Coexistence (GRACE Initiative)

5:30-5:50 Questions and answers
5:50-6:00 Closing remarks
   H.E. Ms. Maria Emma Mejia, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN, Permanent Mission of Colombia to the UN