MYANMAR

*please check against delivery**

Statement by

H.E U Hau Do Suan,

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of

the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations

on Agenda Item 66 (a) and (b): "New Partnership for Africa's Development: Progress in Implementation and International Support"

at the Plenary Meeting of the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly

New York

20 October 2017

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR TO THE UNITED NATIONS
10 E. 77TH STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10075 • TEL. (212) 744-1271 • FAX (212) 744-1290

Mr. President,

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the Permanent Representative of Brunei, on behalf of ASEAN.

I would like to express our sincere thanks to the Secretary General for his insightful and comprehensive reports submitted under the agenda item. The reports provide the reviews on achievements and challenges the African countries face on wide-ranging issues of common interests and concerns.

The year 2017 is the second year of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Africa 2063 Agenda, adopted in 2015 with an aim to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all. Over the past two years, we have dedicated our work to achieve the goals of these global Agendas. However, we still have long way to pass it through.

Mr. President,

It has been almost two decades since the inception of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). It is a collective vision and strategic framework for African countries with an aim to eliminate poverty and to achieve a sustainable path of growth and development on the continent.

Over the years, we have witnessed encouraging progress made by many African countries. Nevertheless, many challenges remain to be addressed. Some of African countries are still grappling with economic uncertainty, political instability, poor connectivity and infrastructure, climate change and natural disaster which impede achieving the sustainable development of the continent.

We are encouraged to learn the impressive progress of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) which targets 16 cross-border projects. It will further strengthen connectivity among the African countries. The successful implementation of the PIDA will contribute to reaching NEPAD’s goals of promoting accelerated growth and sustainable development, eradicating widespread and severe poverty, and halting the marginalization of Africa in the globalization process.

Mr. President,

Despite the adverse effects of weak global economic conditions on Africa's growth performance, African countries continue to make progress in the implementation of the priorities of the NEPAD particularly in the areas of infrastructure, agriculture and gender mainstreaming. While experiencing the infrastructure development in African Countries, the Secretary-General, in his report, pointed out that African countries need to undertake necessary reforms for the local and foreign private sector partners for investment in infrastructure including through the creation of enabling regulatory and legal frameworks. I strongly believe that such reforms will bring more

foreign investors to the region. At the same time, I would like to urge the development partners to support infrastructure development in Africa through financing and capacity-building.

Mr. President,

Asia and Africa are the continents of opportunities and challenges. Given the similarity of development paths of our two continents, we recognize tremendous potential in our collaboration in many areas for mutual benefits through south-south cooperation and the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership (NAASP).

Myanmar was one of the leading countries in building friendship and solidarity among Asian and African countries over six decades ago, as one of the organizers for the historic Asian-African Conference, also known as the Bandung Conference. As Myanmar and African friends have deep-rooted traditional relationship, Myanmar will continue to stand firmly in supporting NEPAD's objectives of political stability, high economic growth and sustainable development.

Mr. President,

Myanmar, like many countries in Africa, lagged behind in development due to internal armed conflicts. Since the new Government came into office on 31 March 2016, we have set up peace and national reconciliation a top priority, with an aim of establishing a democratic federal union. Significant progress has been achieved in peace process. Peace and stability are prerequisites for the sustainable economic development. In economic front, Myanmar opens its doors to responsible foreign investment that could provide much needed employment opportunities. Myanmar's 12 point economic policy has been crafted to reach many of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development including poverty alleviation, the enhancement of infrastructure investment, agriculture, private sector and SMEs.

At the same time, we are reaching out to the international community to a new approach to deepen engagement and cooperation at both bilateral and multilateral levels. Therefore, Myanmar looks forward to enhancing our engagements with our African friends in their development endeavours through the framework of South-South cooperation.

Mr. President,

To conclude, we would like to reiterate our support for full and effective implementation of NEPAD, 2030 Agenda and Africa 2063 Agenda for promoting peace and development in Africa while building mutual understanding based on our friendship and cooperation through Bandung spirit of Afro-Asian solidarity.

I thank you, Mr. President.

****